

# Meetings

## Respiratory Tract Diseases

An international congress on respiratory tract diseases of virus and rickettsial origin was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from 23 to 27 May 1961. The congress was under the sponsorship of the Czechoslovak Medical Society of J. Ev. Purkyně and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Karel Sedláček and K. Raska were secretary-general and president, respectively, of the con-

gress. There were delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

The papers presented dealt with etiology and pathogenesis of virus and rickettsial diseases of the respiratory tract, epidemiology and prevention, and clinical problems. They were of good quality and indicated a keen interest in viral and rickettsial respiratory infections on the part of scientists of Eastern Europe as well as scientists of

Western Europe and the countries of the Western Hemisphere. The subject matter ranged from basic problems of virus composition, virus-cell relationships, and factors of specific and non-specific immunity to the discovery and evaluation of the importance of new respiratory viruses and development of means for controlling infection. Finally, there was considerable discussion of the clinical consequence, in man, of infection with adenoviruses, influenza, and the rickettsiae.

Respiratory viruses and rickettsiae occur throughout the world, with little regard for geographic boundaries. It is important, therefore, that there be maximum exchange of information among scientists of all countries concerning them. The congress in Prague was the first truly international conference on this important health problem. It is to be hoped that this pioneering conference is but the first in a series of congresses on viral respiratory disease, with others to be held throughout the world in the future.

MAURICE R. HILLEMANN

(for the American delegation)

Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, West Point, Pennsylvania



**GME**

**MODEL D**

*This apparatus is designed to provide rapid electrophoretic separation by the application of as much as 5000 volts at 300 ma. to 18 1/4" x 22 1/2" sheets of filter paper*

**high-voltage**

**ELECTROPHORATOR**

In order to dissipate the heat thus generated, the paper is immersed in a bifurcated fiberglass tank containing Varsol, which is a light petroleum fraction. It has a high flash point (over 100 degrees C.), does not conduct electricity, and has the proper degree of volatility for this application. The Varsol is cooled by stainless steel coils at the top of the tank. Cold tap water is adequate as a coolant.

The high voltage is connected to the inside of the tank by means of two nylon and stainless steel plugs attached directly to the edge of the tank. A highly reliable interlock is provided by an extension of the handle for the cover. This stainless steel extension is the conductor which completes the primary circuit of the high-voltage transformer. Thus when the cover is removed the high voltage is turned off. There are no capacitors in the apparatus.

Developed in the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Metabolism, National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health, United States Public Health Service, Bethesda, Maryland. Special thanks are due to Dr. William J. Dreyer, whose co-operation and suggestions are gratefully acknowledged by Gilson Medical Electronics. Ref.—Peptide Separation by Two-Dimensional Chromatography and Electrophoresis, Arnold M. Katz, William J. Dreyer, and Christian B. Anfinsen—*The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Vol. 234, No. 11, November, 1959.

**GILSON MEDICAL ELECTRONICS**

MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN (On Madison's West Beltline Highway)

## Forthcoming Events

### September

19-22. Australian Conf. on Food Technology, Homebush (near Sydney), Australia. (T. B. Partridge, Australian Scientific Liaison Office, 1907 K St., NW, Washington 6)

19-29. International Conf. on Fish Nutrition, Washington, D.C. (FAO, Intern. Agency Liaison Branch, Office of the Director General, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy)

20-21. Industrial Electronics, symp., Boston, Mass. (W. M. Trenholme, General Electric Co., West Lynn, Mass.)

21-22. Air Pollution Control Assoc., annual, Louisville, Ky. (R. Bourne, APCA, Room 2, City Hall, Louisville)

21-22. Conference on Radiofrequency Spectroscopy in Solids, Bangor, Wales. (Physical Soc., 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Rd., London, S.W.7, England)

21-23. French Medical Congr., 33rd, Paris. (C. Laroche, 34 rue de Bassano, Paris 8)

24-27. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, Lake Placid, N.Y. (E. R. Smoley, 30 School Lane, Scarsdale, N.Y.)

25-29. European Committee of Liaison for Cellulose and Paper, symp., Oxford, England. (British Paper and Board Makers' Assoc., Technical Section, St. Winifred's, Welcomes Rd., Kenley, Surrey, England)

25-30. Magnetism and Crystallography, intern. conf., Kyoto, Japan. (Science Council of Japan, Ueno Park, Tokyo)