"Unpublished" or "In Press"?

Curt Stern [*Science* **119**, 221 (1954)] makes a comment on unpublished articles that has, in my view, wider implications. I submit that it is both conceited and illogical to say, for example, "Further details of these experiments will be published elsewhere" if, in fact, no further paper on the subject has yet been accepted for publication. Whether the paper has been submitted and not accepted, or whether it has not yet been prepared, does not affect the issue; in either event the author is not in a position to state that his further results will be published, unless he arrogates to himself the function and abilities of a prophet! On the other hand, if he wishes to refer to work that Stern calls "actually in press, that is, accepted by a journal," it is both discourteous and inconveniently reticent to refrain from naming the journal. Reference to work at this stage should be given in some such words as "Further details of this investigation are being published elsewhere (*7*)." Then, at the end under "References": A. U. Thor and A. N. Other, *Science,* in press."

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17 June 1954.

Our present policy, to which we doubtless have been holding all the more carefully as a result of Bacharach's letter to us, is to ask authors to delete "in press" references when the name of the periodical which has accepted the paper cannot for one reason or another be furnished. As for references of the "in preparation" and "unpublished" sort, these have often been left undisturbed. A reference to unpublished work may be useful for it enables—indeed, should be regarded as inviting—interested readers to communicate directly with the author for details of the work.

Method for Extraction of Substances from Liquid Samples

A modification of the Soxhlet apparatus, which is normally used for extraction of substances from solid samples, makes it possible to use this apparatus to extract substances from liquid material also. Extraction may be performed with solvents either heavier or lighter than the sample. Volatile substances can also be extracted.

When the solvent is lighter than the liquid sample, the modification consists of replacing the extraction thimble with a new device. This device consists of a funnel within a glass tube (Fig. 1). The bottom end of the funnel, though closed, must be perforated with small holes. The size of the funnel and tube will vary according to the size of the Soxhlet apparatus, and therefore depends on the volume of the sample.

If a Soxhlet apparatus with a 250-ml flask is used, the tube may be 8 cm long and 2.5 cm in diameter; the funnel will be 12.5 cm long and 3.5 cm in diameter at its largest point, and 0.8 cm in diameter at the stem. In this case about 20 ml of sample may be used. The sample (for example, aqueous solution) is placed in the tube. The solvent, after being distilled, passes through the funnel and escapes through the holes at the bottom; it then moves upward, passing through the sample, and extracts the material in it and forms a layer on the sample. After having reached the edges of the tube it goes into the Soxhlet apparatus and may be siphoned over to the flask.

When the solvent is heavier than the liquid sample, the modification consists of replacing the extraction thimble with a glass tube having a small side ramification (Fig. 2). As in the case of solvents that are lighter than the liquid sample, the size of the Soxhlet apparatus must vary according to the volume of the sample.

For a 250-ml flask, the tube, which must be slightly larger in diameter at the top, must be 11.5 cm long and 2.5 cm in diameter; its diameter at the widest point must be 3 cm. The side ramification may be 5 cm long and 0.5 cm in diameter. In this instance, about 20 ml of the sample may be used. Before placing the sample in the tube, it is necessary to place some solvent in it in order to prevent drops of the sample from passing through the side ramification. The distilled solvent reaches the surface of the sample; being

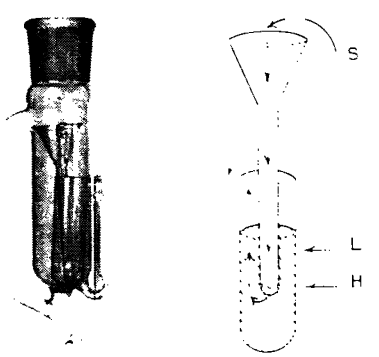

Fig. 1. Modification for solvent *S* lighter than water; *L*, liquid sample; *H*, holes.

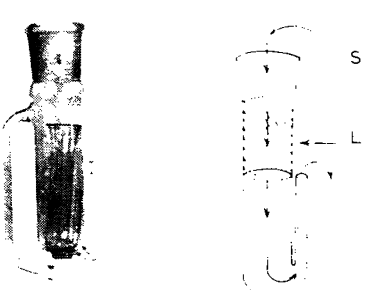

Fig. 2. Modification for solvent *S* heavier than water; *L*, liquid sample.