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TECHNIQUE OF COLLECTION AND EXAMINATION
OF THICK BLOOD FILMS FOR MALARIA PARASITES

by

Dr S. Avery-Jones and Miss L. Lowy
WHO Advisory Team on Malaria Eradication, SEARO

The following corrigenda and addendum to the paper "Technique of collection and examination of thick blood films for malaria parasites" were received from the authors:

Corrections

1. Page 2, paragraph 1: A basin of 6-8 inches diameter is suitable. The detergent solution must be strong enough to remove lens oil satisfactorily. If a larger basin is used, more detergent should be added.
2. Page 5, paragraph 2: For "frosted edge" read "frosted end". Though ideal, such slides are very unlikely to be issued for routine field work. Indian ink is also usually unsuitable for rough field conditions, though valuable in a laboratory. If wax pencils are unsatisfactory the make should be changed and the manufacturers notified. The only method we knew of marking slides that is suitable in all circumstances in the field and that requires the minimum of equipment is to write on a thin film (not too thin) with a soft lead pencil.
3. Figure 4: The left-hand slide should not be there - it is not held by anything. The number of clips shown would in practice be divided into two sets - not one as shown.
4. Figure 5: The saw cuts should be at an angle of about 60° to the base and this is not quite obvious in the drawing. The best size of the slide rack is 6 x 12 inches (approximately 15 x 30 cm).

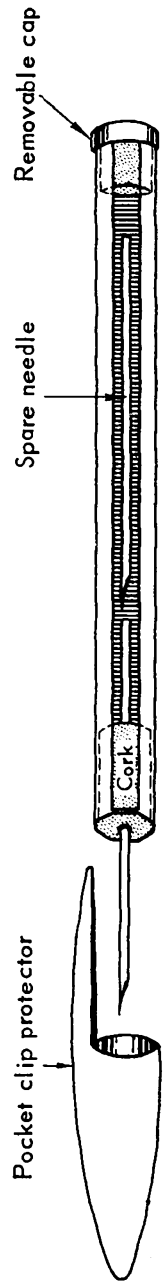
Addendum

Until recently we had never solved the problem of the ideal needle holder. Now, one of us (L. L.) has found the answer - at least to our own satisfaction - adapting for a new use the cheap ballpoint pen made of transparent plastic, which is sold almost universally.

Remove ballpoint and ink tube. Cut the casing across 3-1/2 inches (9 cm) from the blunt end. Cut a small piece of cork to size with a razor blade, press the needle through it leaving the point protruding 1-1/2 cm, coat the cork with glue or rubber solution and press the cork into the tubular casing. Allow the glue to dry before use.

Spare needles can be held in the upper part of the pen which is closed by a removable cap. When not in use the needle is protected by the pocket clip.

The special advantages of this holder are that the plastic is so light that it is possible to prick very delicately, it fits very easily in the hand, the needle is protected when not in use and spare needles can be carried.



Needle holder made from plastic ball point pen

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