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BLOOD SAMPLING KIT

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Among the important activities undertaken in a malaria eradication programme may be mentioned the surveillance operations, malarionometric surveys and drug distribution. Simple compact cheap equipment undoubtedly helps a great deal in carrying out such operations. One type of such kit was prepared by Avery-Jones & Lowy (1959).

In 1961, a simple kit was devised and used in the Field Training Area of the Malaria Eradication Training Centre (Dokki) and proved useful over the past two years.

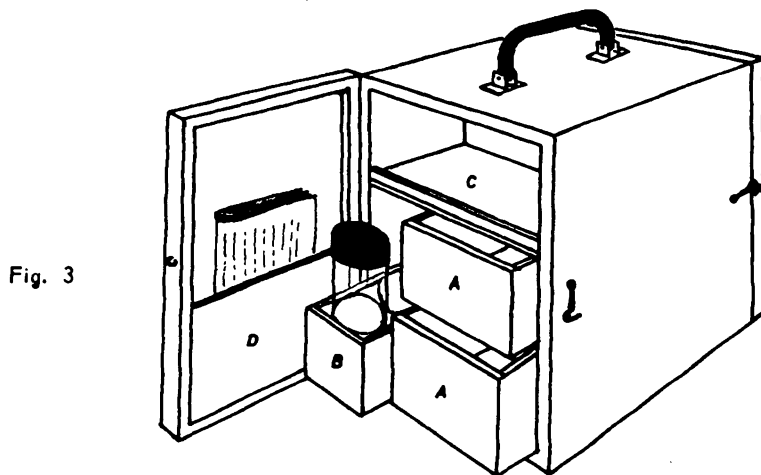
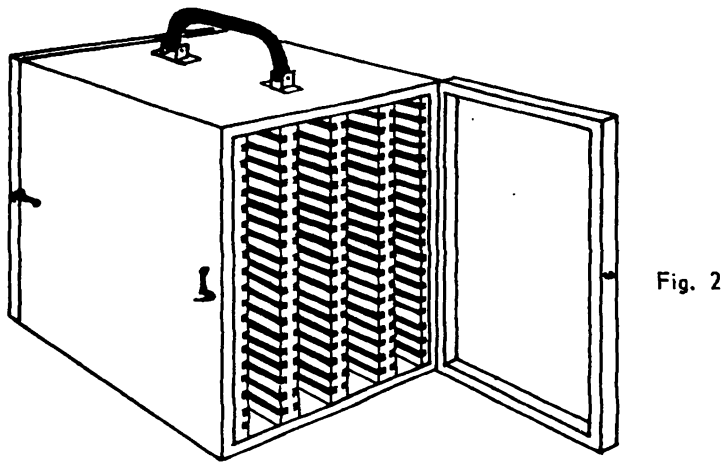
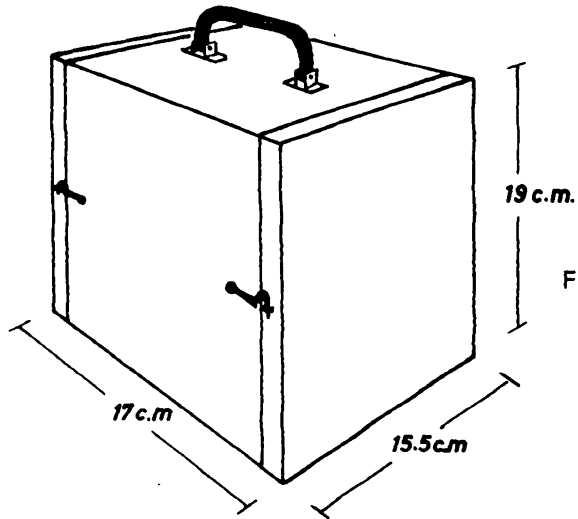
It is a light wooden box 15 x 17 x 19 cm with an upper handle, and one separate door on either side (Fig. 1). It is divided inside into two separate vertical compartments. The first is used for keeping the slides and has slots to hold 100 slides (Fig. 2). The second compartment is supplied with three drawers, the first of which (A) is used for cotton which is cut into small pieces together with a piece of gauze or cloth. The second drawer (A) is used for tablets of the required drug, kept in a pill box. Each of these two drawers has the dimensions of 5 x 8 cm. The third drawer (B) is 2-3 cm in height with two sockets to hold upright two bottles of 30 cc capacity, one for the alcohol and the other for the pricking needle which is fixed to the cork. The remainder of the compartment (C) acts as a shelf to hold other small material such as pencils, etc. The forms required are placed in a pocket (D) in the door.

Such a kit has the following advantages:

1. It keeps all the required material in one small, light, rigid, durable and closed container.
2. Blood slides are received in the office, cleaned, and kept in place, so that during field work the agent prepares the blood film on it and replaces the slide immediately in its slot away from flies and dust.
3. Its price is low since on unit basis its cost in £E 1.5 (US\$ 3.50).

#### REFERENCES

- Avery-Jones, S. & Lowy, L. (1959) Technique of collection and examination of thick blood films for malaria parasites (Document WHO/Mal/232)
- World Health Organization (1961) Manual for processing and examination of blood slides in malaria eradication programmes, 2nd ed.



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