## 100 KINGSTON MEDICAL QUARTERLY.

bright straw color. It is my practice to add 5 drops of sterile water or broth to a blood drop, mixing thoroughly and if not dilute enough adding sufficient more fluid to get requisite amount. Calculating half of the bulk of the dried drop is serum the addition of diluting fluid makes a dilution of 1 in 10 and as in the test this is mixed with at least an equal bulk of the typhoid culture the dilution of the drop examined is I in 20. In securing the drop the ball of the finger or lobe of the ear should first be cleansed with soap and water, then with alcohol and ether, the part being rubbed dry after the use of the latter. A puncture should be made, the first blood drop wiped away (clean absorbent) and after drops (3 or 4) taken a clean glass slide or piece of glazed paper the drops being kept separate and not too large. These drops are permitted to dry and are then ready for examination. The dried blood will keep days or even weeks without spoiling.

If one wants to study the reaction more carefully while using blood, so as to get approximately correct dilutions, a graduated bulbed pipette, e.g. the white corpuscle counting pipette of Thoma's haemacytometer can be used to collect the blood. The blood is drawn up in the long arm of pipette to required height and then drawn into mixing bulb with diluting fluid. In this way we can secure dilutions up to 1-200.

If one desires to work with the serum itself so as to secure accurate dilutions, a common bulbed capillary pipette can be employed, the blood being drawn up into the bulb until partially filled, the pipette is laid flat, and the blood coagulates on one side of bulb squeezing out the serum which can then be blown out. In this way several drops of clear serum can be secured for testing.

To obtain larger amounts of serum the best method is to apply a blister and then withdraw the blister fluid. This latter method takes time but secures a fair amount of material to work with, while excuses for the application of the blister on therapeutic grounds are not difficult to find.

The second point to be considered in the application of the test is the culture of the typhoid bacillus to be employed. Different strains of this bacillus vary in their response to this