

New products described this month include three made with safety in mind—insulated gloves, a system for mopping up spilt chemicals and a wallchart on hazard warning symbols.

● LKB Produkter AB of Sweden has introduced a new embedding system for high-resolution light microscopy. Histo-Resin, which is a glycol methacrylate polymer, offers a rapid low-toxicity procedure for the production of highly transparent specimen blocks. The HistoResin kit includes all components required for specimen infiltration and embedding. Thin (2µm) serial sections can be cut for staining series, and the HistoResin system includes a special mounting medium to ensure stable blocks and secure attachment of virtually any adapter. Fully polymerized, clear blocks are ready for sectioning within 2 hours.

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Chemops in action

● For fast and easy cleanup of chemical spills, Lab Safety supply Co. produces the Chemop. The mop works like an ordinary squeeze-action mop, but is made entirely of chemically resistant and nonsparking materials, and fitted with disposable Chemsponges that will absorb acids, caustics, solvents or oils. The Chemop eliminates the use of messy absorbents and neutralizers and greatly simplifies spill cleanup.

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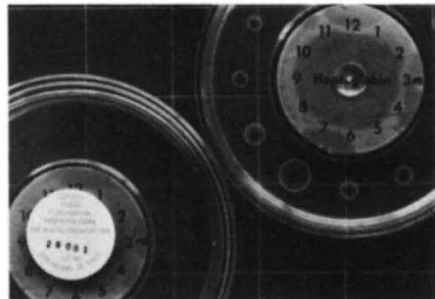
● Safetemp gloves, from Forma Scientific, protect the hands from the cold while working with cold or frozen materials. The heavy-duty water repellent gloves are effectively insulated yet the gloves are lightweight for good mobility. Safetemp gloves are available in three sizes — elbow, mid-arm and shoulder lengths.

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These notes are based on information provided by the manufacturers. For further details circle the appropriate numbers on the Reader Service Card bound inside the journal.

● NOTEBOOK is a new software system from Biodata intended to do in the laboratory what the wealth of office computer software available does for the office. The new package provides a standardized and simple way of controlling experiments and collecting data. Data are communicated between the NOTEBOOK program through disk files which can also be transferred into files suitable for off-the-shelf office data processing packages. Programs are written in PASCAL for speed of execution and make extensive use of menus and soft keys to select program options. The programs will run on the IBM PC and compatible machines including Apricot and Sirius. Typical applications include long-term data logging — recording temperature, strain, analogue voltages; waveform capture and display; analogue-to-digital and digital-to-analogue conversion; off-line signal analysis.

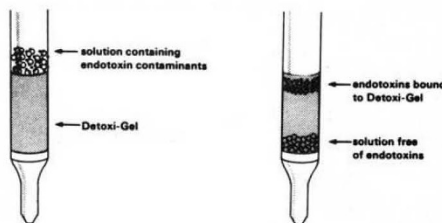
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The Diffu-Gen in vitro diagnostic system

● The Diffu-Gen radial immunodiffusion assay system from Tago now includes an assay for measuring the concentration of haptoglobin. Tago's RID agarose plates are colour-coded, contain 12 numbered wells, and are available in 3- and 10-unit packages. A Reference Sera Kit of three levels of haptoglobin can be supplied separately. Tests can be performed without diluting patient sera, and no incubator or humidity chamber is required.

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Detoxi-Gel removes endotoxins from solution

● Endotoxins can be removed from a solution using a new affinity chromatography support from Pierce Chemical. The support, Detoxi-Gel, uses a special ligand covalently bound to an agarose matrix and has a high capacity for endotoxins.

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The fourth edition of the BDH Hazard Warning Symbols Chart shows the symbols used in current UK labelling regulations. The charts measure 70 × 49 cm. Circle no. 106 for further details.

● As a result of a recent cooperative agreement between ICI and the Institute of Radioelements, Fleurus, Belgium, scientists in the United Kingdom and the United States now have access to a Tritium Custom Synthesis Service by contacting the Physics and Radioisotope Services Group of ICI at Billingham. Compounds may be labelled by a variety of techniques including catalytic exchange, halogen replacement and reduction with tritium gas.

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● Mung bean nuclease, recently reported capable of isolating genes by preferentially cleaving DNA at the ends of the gene segment (in the presence of formamide), is available from Pharmacia. Mung bean nuclease is also often preferred over S_2 nuclease for single-strand specific cleavage, as it has less tendency to nick double-stranded DNA.

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● A new 12-page booklet available from Data Corporation details the immunoperoxidase staining characteristics of a variety of normal and neoplastic species using ten monoclonal antibodies.

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LC SERVICES CORPORATION
165 New Boston Street
Woburn, MA 01801
(617) 938-1700