

# The news in neuroscience

November's meeting of the American Society for Neuroscience will bring a host of novel products to Washington.

A **brain slice chamber** with interchangeable top units allows testing for drug action by alternative techniques (Reader Service No. 100). Medical Systems Corp makes two tops to accompany the single base unit: a Haas design that uses stable semi-submersion techniques, and a Zbicz top that maintains tissue slices submerged under a constant flow of perfusing liquid. The company claims its instrument can achieve cell longevity of 10 hours or more. For either top unit, Medical Systems has a temperature controller that regulates between 30 and 40 ± 0.2 °C.

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### Versatile Tissue Culture Incubator

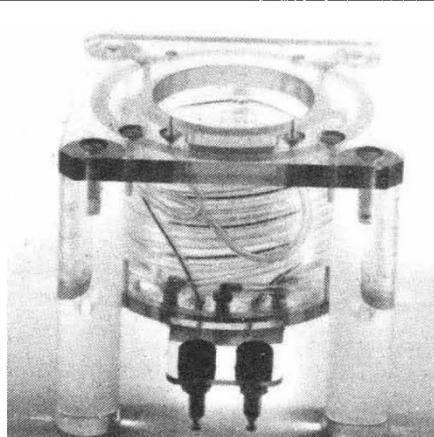
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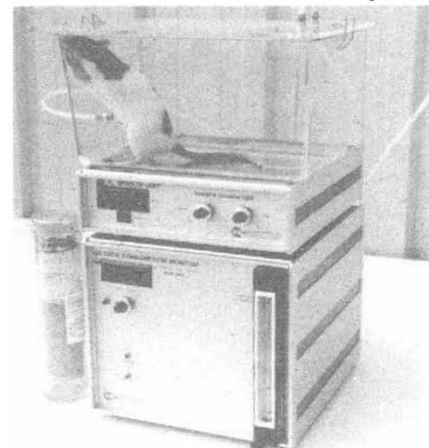


Takes the headaches out of brain slicing.

For **rapid kinetics studies**, Intracel Ltd supplies Bio-Logic instrumentation and software from France in three different configurations (Reader Service No. 101). The stopped flow, rapid filtration and quench flow systems are all available with microprocessor control, and are priced between £9,600 and £18,000 (UK). Intracel says programmable stepping motors and the unusual design of the mixing chambers reduce dead volume and dead time.

Three separate background measurements and all forms of evoked potential averaging are part of an **EEG analysis package** from Biodata (Reader Service No. 102). The computer-aided CEAN 400 system, which includes the hardware, software and peripherals for various applications, simplifies the analysis of extended EEG records typical of drug and sleep research, according to the company. Priced at approximately \$25,000 (US), Biodata's instrument can be integrated with existing EEG equipment, or sold with its own amplifiers and stimulators.

Any animal or plant that will fit is fair game for Columbus Instruments' economy **oxygen consumption monitor** (Reader Service No. 103). The company's \$7,926 (US) system, with dimensions of 11 × 15 × 13 inches, is sensitive to percentage of oxygen, not oxygen partial pressure, so standardized values of consumption are more accessible. Although this model requires operator assistance, it can be automated with connection to a computer.



Measuring O<sub>2</sub> consumption by open circuit calorimetry.

Columbus also has a fully computerized IBM PC/XT version of its monitor.

Eight more **antibodies for neurological investigations** are now available from ICN Biomedicals (Reader Service No. 104). The company says its line addresses studies of neural tissue and cell differentiation, typing of neural tumours and research on disorders and diseases such as Alzheimers disease. ICN draws attention to its Alzheimers agents in particular, including antisera to the paired helical filaments (PHF) and to microtubule-associated proteins. □

*These notes are compiled by Karen Wright from information provided by the manufacturers. To obtain further details about these products, use the reader service card bound inside the journal. Prices quoted are sometimes nominal and apply only within the country indicated.*

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