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A clinical method for the quantitative estimation of calcium in blood.By **MAX KAHN** and **L. G. HADJOPOULOS**.

[From the Department of Laboratories, Beth Israel Hospital, New York City.]

To 1 c.c. of blood serum in a 10 c.c. test-tube, add 4 c.c. of a 1 per cent. solution of ammonium oxalate. Let stand for $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 hour, and centrifuge for 5 minutes. Pour off the supernatant fluid. Wash the precipitate three times with distilled water, recovering the precipitate by means of centrifugalization. Add to sediment 1 c.c. distilled water and transfer to a vitreous crucible. The test-tube is washed with distilled water and the washings also collected in the crucible. The water is slowly evaporated, and the precipitate burnt in a strong flame until CaO is formed. Dissolve the ash in $\frac{1}{2}$ c.c. N/50 HCl, add 1 c.c. distilled water and titrate excess of HCl with N/100 NaOH, using phenolphthalein as an indicator. The amount of CaO can now be calculated.

Eight analyses may be made by this method in one hour. Remarkably uniform results are obtained upon repeated examinations of the same blood. For clinical purposes, this method is of great assistance.

100 (1682)

The penetration of normal mucous membranes of the rabbit by *Treponema pallidum*.By **WADE H. BROWN** and **LOUISE PEARCE**.

[From the Rockefeller Institute, New York City.]

The fact may be recorded that highly virulent strains of *Treponema pallidum* are capable of penetrating some portion of the genital mucosa of normal rabbits and setting up an infection without necessarily producing the first gross lesion at the portal of entry. This fact was recently determined in 9 rabbits and with two highly virulent strains of *Treponema pallidum*.