

The only adjustments in operating the amplifier are: a parallel resistance to adjust the applied impulse to about 1 millivolt, and a reversing switch to secure the correct polarity. A switch in parallel with the magnet, when closed, allows any adjustments while observing the deflections of a milliammeter in series—without actuating the magnet. On the second impulse after opening this switch, the magnet, through an escapement, releases a falling arm which, in turn, opens a trip-switch, breaking the primary circuit of an induction coil. Operation on the second impulse eliminates errors which might otherwise enter if the switch is opened during the first impulse. The trip-switch is opened after a delay of  $1/20$  to  $1/2$  second, depending upon the position of adjustable weights on the falling arm.

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### Effects of Chicory on the Isolated Intestine.

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Although chicory is widely used as a beverage ingredient, very little information as to its action is available in the literature. The popular belief, perhaps founded on statements by those commercially interested, that it serves as a mild laxative, suggested testing its effects on isolated intestine. It has been shown that coffee infusions increase the activity of isolated intestinal segments<sup>1</sup> to a greater extent than could be explained by their caffeine content.<sup>2</sup> Kymographic tracings were made from segments of rabbit duodenum in the usual fashion. The preparation tested was a fresh 10% infusion of ground and roasted chicory, made in Tyrode's solution. In numerous experiments we have observed no indication of stimulation of either tone or amplitude of contraction, but with concentrations greater than would be present in the gastro-intestinal tract of individuals drinking chicory-coffee infusions there was uniformly a more or less marked depressant effect.

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<sup>1</sup> Bickel, A., and von Eweyk, C., *Z. f. d. Ges. Exp. Med.*, 1927, liv, 75.

<sup>2</sup> Plant, O. H., and Reynolds, C., *J. Pharm. and Exp. Ther.*, 1922, xix, 256.