NEW APPARATUS

A THREE WAY VALVE FOR MANOMETRIC BLOOD PRESSURE RECORDS

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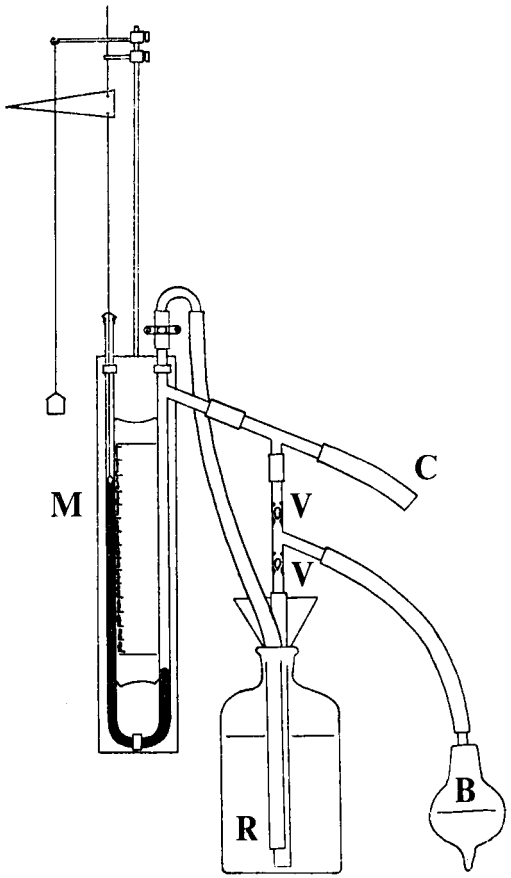
TRADITIONAL methods for recording the blood pressure of anæsthetised animals employ a mercury manometer and a bottle containing an anticoagulant fluid. The pressure in the manometer is raised, either by elevating the bottle or by increasing the pressure in the bottle—e.g., by means of a bicycle pump and valve—but the bottles tend to be cumbersome.



A simple apparatus for raising the pressure in the manometer and for washing out the arterial cannula is illustrated in the figure. It consists of two glass valves (V) and a small rubber bulb (B). When the bulb is pressed and released, anticoagulant fluid is drawn from the reservoir (R). When the bulb is again pressed, either the fluid is forced through the cannula (C), if this is open, or the pressure in the manometer (M) is increased. The operator can readily use the apparatus single-handed and can exercise delicate control on the pressure in the manometer. There is no danger of flooding the animal with anticoagulant fluid, as has been known to occur through inadvertently omitting to close the clip to the pressure bottle. A rubber tube is also connected to the top of the manometer, which is normally kept closed by a screw clip. This enables bubbles of air when present in the manometer to be easily washed out.

The apparatus has been in use in these laboratories for some considerable time and has so far proved entirely satisfactory.