

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bacterial Suspensions in Bactericide Evaluation

SIR,—The variability of the inoculum used in the evaluation of bactericides has led to attempts at standardisation^{1,2,3}. Recent experiments in this department suggest that there may be a simple solution of the problem.

Suspensions of *Bacterium coli* (N.C.T.C. No. 5933) have been made in glass-distilled water and kept at ambient room temperature for periods of up to eight weeks. Viable counts, performed by the Miles and Misra technique on these suspensions at various times during the storage period have shown insignificant variation, e.g.:—

TABLE I

Time of storage in days	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	35	42
Viable count $\times 10^6$	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5

Further experiments are in progress to determine if such a suspension shows as little variability in its susceptibility to bactericides as it does in its viable count; other species, other vehicles, and differing temperatures are also being used.

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guinea-pig lung while the more promising were further tested for their *in vivo* activity in guinea-pigs. Several of the derivatives were equal or superior to both adrenaline and *isopropyl* noradrenaline as bronchodilators, and exhibited the same potency when administered by either the parenteral or oral route.

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