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Specification for

Haemocytometer and particle counting chambers

Spécification pour les chambres d'hématimétrie et de numération des particules

Spezifikation für Hämazytometer- und Körperchenzählkammern

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Foreword

This British Standard was first published in 1937, revised in 1953, and again in 1963 when the scope was extended to chambers with four rulings. BS 748 : 1963 is now withdrawn.

The four-ruling chamber is suitable for leucocyte counts, but not for red-cell counts, because of drying out of the sample in the fourth and possibly also the third ruled area during counting of the first and second areas.

In the UK the Improved Neubauer counting chamber has to some extent replaced the Neubauer chamber, for it has been found that confusion can arise in the use of the latter which can lead to errors. However, the Neubauer chamber is still manufactured and has been retained in the present edition.

Haemocytometer dilution pipettes have been omitted from

the present edition because experience has shown that they are difficult to calibrate, easily broken, and in practice better accuracy is obtainable by a tube dilution technique using a capillary pipette and a measured volume of diluent.

The tolerances on dimensions specified in this British Standard provide for the highest degree of accuracy which is considered to be attainable in manufacture without unduly increasing the cost of production. Nevertheless, it is important to note that errors as large as $\pm 7\%$ on a blood count could occur if, by chance, all the tolerances permitted by this standard for different parts of the apparatus were cumulative. Therefore, for work where greater accuracy than this is required, it is advisable to determine the accuracy of the apparatus by direct measurement of its dimensions, or by other suitable method.