ANNOTATION

BLOOD GLUCOSE MEASUREMENTS IN FIELD TRIALS

L. F. GREEN, BSc, ARIC, FCS, FIFST,

Beecham Products, Leatherhead

Estimation of blood glucose levels during sporting events almost invariably requires that the plasma samples are frozen between collection in the field and analysis in the laboratory.

In a previous Annotation (Br.J.Sp.Med. (1972) 6, 116,) we reported some of the dangers inherent in these procedures and the routine precautions which we observe in order to minimise them.

A few further comments may be of interest.

1. Although slight changes can occur in the glucose concentration of frozen deproteinized blood samples during storage, these are negligible compared with the losses which can be incurred in the sample-preparation prior to freezing.
2. When heparinized blood samples were allowed to stand for approximately two hours before deproteinization with zinc uranyl acetate, a 5% loss of glucose was observed (presumably through enzymic degradation). Hence, deproteinization must be carried out as rapidly as possible, and the precipitate removed by centrifugation.
3. Once these operations have been completed, it is advisable to freeze the sample immediately.
4. If the precipitated protein is not separated from the supernatant **before** freezing but is left in contact in the frozen state, additional losses of about 5% can occur.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Gabrielle Irene Jones, MCSP, DipPE

It is with regret that we learnt recently of the tragic death of Mrs. Gay Jones, of the Bishop Lonsdale College of Education, in a road traffic accident last year. She qualified at Anstey College of Physical Education in 1932, in both physical education and physiotherapy, and joined the lecturing staff of Bishop Lonsdale College during the war. Her interests and expert knowledge covered many branches of physical education, including sports injuries and their prevention, and exercise physiology. She joined the BASM late in 1972, and died "on active service" for the National Trust in the Peak District in August 1973.

There are too few people left with the dual physiotherapy/physical education qualifications, and it is to those few like Gay Jones that this Association owes a big debt in keeping the two professions together.

H. Evans Robson