

DANGEROUS ASSUMPTION:

THAT BASING AUTOMATED INSTRUMENT
CALIBRATION ON THE VALUES SUPPLIED
WITH A REFERENCE SERUM IS ALWAYS
SAFE, RELIABLE, WISE AND PRUDENT.

Obviously, the validity of *your* data is dependent upon the reliability of the information that accompanies the reference serum you use, when this information is used for setting your instruments.

But what if the reference serums themselves are out-of-control? A far-fetched question?

Regrettably, no. The authors of an article on page 1144 of the November 1971 issue of *Clinical Chemistry* have presented evidence of serious deficiency in the validity of data supplied with reference serums.

In essence, this important study shows that one cannot automatically assume that manufacturers' data is not subject to error. On the contrary, the study indicated that several major manufacturers of reference serums have supplied data that significantly jeopardized the validity and usefulness of much of the subsequent information emanating from instruments calibrated with this data.

Needless to say, some manufacturers provided data of consistent reliability, LederSet* Reference Serum being outstanding among the reference serums tested. We suggest study of the article mentioned above for a specific comparison of reliability by manufacturer found by the authors.

Finally, these authors conclude that the existing variations between manufacturers' values and actual determined values are significant enough—in and of themselves—to deprive a laboratory of an "acceptable performance" rating. Accordingly, they plead for standardization of such commercial calibration materials. And we support this plea.

But until this moment arrives, we urge you to choose your reference serum with the same care that you use in your own work. Clearly, you, the clinician, and his patients will be the beneficiaries.

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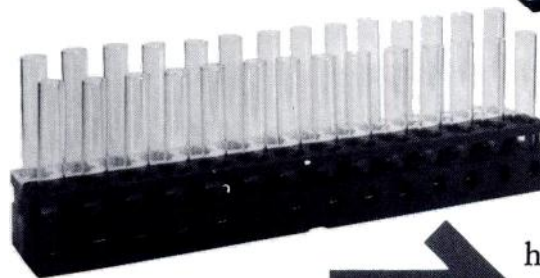
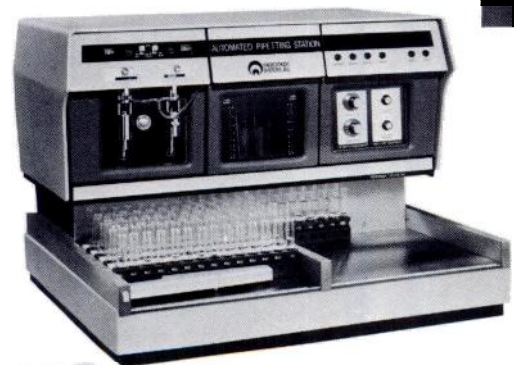


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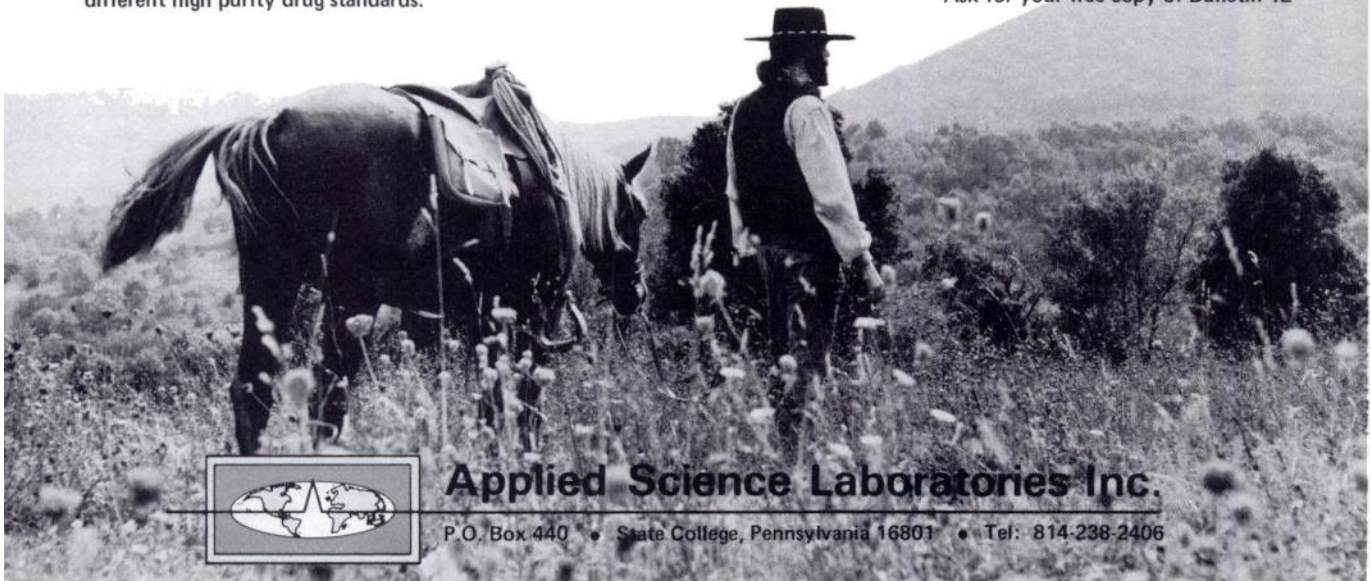
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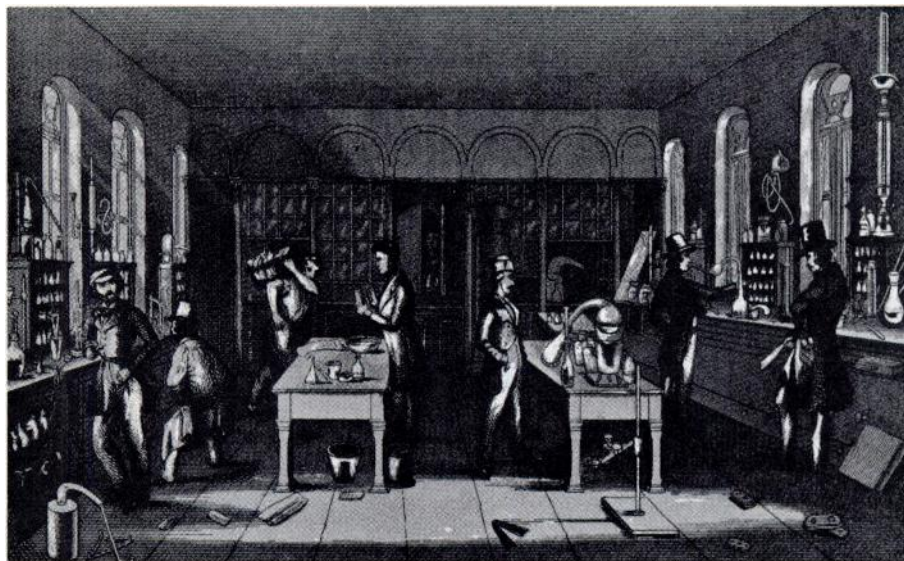
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