

INTERPRETATION

The results attached were obtained by a skilled technical assistant in examining fifty fields of standard type (each containing approximately (average) 12,500 erythrocytes). When no stippled erythrocytes are encountered in fifty fields, or when the numbers are from 1 to 9 the result is wholly normal - i.e. physiological. Figures of 10 or above are less common but occur occasionally in normal individuals.

It will be observed that the one result which is at the upper normal or lower abnormal limit, has occurred in a filer (Stover), whose blood lead level is relatively high. This, however, may well be a matter of pure chance. It is our general experience that the examination of the blood for stippling as a means of estimating the significance of lead exposure - and especially that which is within or near the threshold of safety - is almost, if not wholly, useless. On the other hand, negative results, when regarded as a phenomenon expressive of group - rather than individual - status, are suggestive of safe conditions of exposure. I would not depend on them too strongly, but still I regard them as corroborative evidence of slight or non-existent hazard.

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