

THE PREPARATION OF CARBOL-FUCHSIN
FOR ZIEHL-NEELEN'S STAIN.

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At the request of Dr. E. Muir a method of preparation of carbol-fuchsin for Ziehl-Neelsen's stain which has been particularly successful for the demonstration of leprosy bacilli is described. Basic fuchsin is obtained from a source which can supply a stain of a reasonably standard composition.

Basic fuchsin	10 gm.
Absolute ethyl alcohol			100 ml.
Phenol	50 gm.
Distilled water			950 ml.

Boil the basic fuchsin with absolute alcohol under a reflux condenser for thirty minutes. Allow to cool. Mix phenol with water until dissolved. Add to the alcoholic solution of fuchsin and shake well. When the fuchsin-alcoholic and phenol solutions are mixed a precipitate starts to appear at once and continues for a period of 3—5 days. The stain should not be used during this time. After 5 days the stain is filtered and is ready for use. It keeps well for at least nine months, the longest period for which there has been occasion to store it in this laboratory.