

The experimental technique consisted in covering the surface of the solid medium (after setting in a petri-dish) with a sterile strip of moistened Cellophane, so that the membrane was in intimate contact with the surface of the medium. (Cellophane supplied by the British Cellophane Company is used and it could be sterilised by heating it in an autoclave at 15 lbs. pressure for 15 minutes). The dish was inoculated in the usual manner. The organisms grew quite well on the media and the growth was found practically as satisfactory as the growth on plain, uncovered media. When sufficient growth had occurred, the membrane was lifted out of the dish and the bacterial growth easily recovered from the membrane.

The technique has now been successfully extended to other aerobic organisms. Attempts are also being made to apply the method to strict anaerobes and to such parasites as normally grow only in association with their hosts.

T. R. BHASKARAN.
M. SREENIVASAYA.
V. SUBRAHMANYAN.

Department of Biochemistry,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore.
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Culture of Micro-Organisms on Cellophane Membrane.

IN the course of our studies on the mechanism of nitrogen fixation, it was found necessary to obtain considerable quantities of bacterial (azotobacter) growth free from the solid constituents of the culture media. By covering the solid medium with cellophane membrane, it was thought that the crystalloidal constituents comprising the greater portion of the nutriment, would permeate through the membrane and be made continually available to the growth of the bacterium while the solid medium underneath would, as usual, serve as the reservoir of nutrients and water.