

ON THE ERROR OF COUNTING WITH A HAEMACYTOMETER.

By STUDENT.

WHEN counting yeast cells or blood corpuscles with a hæmacytometer there are two main sources of error: (1) the drop taken may not be representative of the bulk of the liquid; (2) the distribution of the cells or corpuscles over the area which is examined is never absolutely uniform, so that there is an "error of random sampling."

With the first source of error we are concerned only to this extent; that when the probable error of random sampling is known we can tell whether the various drops taken show significant differences. What follows is concerned with the distribution of particles throughout a liquid, as shewn by spreading it in a thin layer over a measured surface and counting the particles per unit area.