Chapter 3

MATERIAL AND METHODS
(GENERAL)

Twenty wild living healthy animals weighing more than 200 gm each were obtained from time to time. As the central nervous system of the animal is small and soft to handle when fresh, it was decided to fix the animal as a whole before brains or spinal cords were removed.

It is difficult to handle this wild animal so that the animal along with its cage was placed in a closed cupboard containing plenty of cotton pads soaked in anaesthetic ether. After about 3-4 minutes, when the animal became semiconscious, it was taken out of the cage and given an intraperitoneal injection of 20 mg of sodium nembutal dissolved in 2.00 cc of distilled water.

The anaesthetized animal was spread out on its back with legs and arms nailed on a board. The chest was opened so as to expose the heart. To prevent intravascular clotting 0.2 cc of heparin was injected intracardially.

A canula was introduced into the aorta and tied. Normal saline was then injected into the aorta by placing the injection bottle one meter above the level of the animal. Right atrium was
then opened to permit the drainage of blood. When clear normal saline started coming out of the right atrium, saline profusion was stopped and 10% formal saline was injected from a similar type of bottle kept at a similar height. After 300 cc of formal saline had been injected, ligatures were tied at the venae cavae and the aorta. The animal was then put in a jar containing 10% formalin.