Abstract of techniques: Isolation of proteins from human saliva, milk, and serum by salt precipitation, ion exchange, and molecular sieve chromatography. Fluorescent antibody examination of tissues. In vitro culture synthesis of proteins using $^{14}$C leucine incorporation. Radiolabeling of IgA with iodine and injection into normals to quantitate distribution in serum and secretions. Measurement of specific antibody to blood group antibodies in different classes using hemagglutination and absorption with class specific antisera. [The SCI® indicates that this paper has been cited over 695 times since 1965.]

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*This paper was the first to suggest the concept of an immune system common to mucosal fluids. It described in detail the chemical differences between serum and secretory antibodies. I am pleased that the work has been verified and extended in other laboratories and has stood the test of time. Other workers have showed its potential importance as a 'first line of defense' against potentially pathogenic microorganisms and the importance of stimulating this system in immunization against viruses and bacteria that enter the body via mucous membranes. More recently, evidence has been presented that the secretory system, as it is now called, may regulate the absorption of nonviable materials that are inhaled or ingested and that abnormalities of the mucosal system may occur in certain human diseases.

"You might be interested in the evolution of this work. Halsted Holman at Rockefeller University was examining the gastric secre-