



Fig. 1. Technical drawing of the mechanical sieve

deposits also varied, so that the testing of the machines was fairly extensive. In sediments with a low clay content the speed of washing and sieving was fast and there were no special difficulties. The process became slower with the increase of the clay content, since the washing took much longer, but in every case it was possible to render the sample being sieved in a

suitable condition for the sorting of finds. In no instance was any appreciable damage, caused by the sieve, noticed, even to the most fragile of finds.

In conclusion it can be said that the mechanical sieve is an efficient and safe alternative to the traditional methods of preparing excavation deposits for study.

## Sediments in archaeology

A symposium on this subject will take place at Southampton on 15–16 December 1973, jointly organized by Dr D. A. Davidson, Department of Geography, St David's University College, Lampeter, and Miss M. L. Shackley, Department of Archaeology, Southampton University. The aim of the symposium is to provide an opportunity for people who are interested in the analysis of archaeological sediments to meet for discussion of common

interests. Since workers in this field come from many different disciplines it is hoped to include papers from geomorphologists, soil scientists and geologists as well as from archaeologists. Abstracts will be circulated in advance. Full details and registration forms will be available in September from Dr D. A. Davidson, Department of Geography, St David's University College, Lampeter, Cardiganshire, Wales.