

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 5)*

BECTON DICKINSON & COMPANY
(Name of Issuer)

COMMON
(Title of Class of Securities)

075887109
(CUSIP Number)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement

(A fee is not required only if the filing person: (1) has a previous statement on file reporting beneficial ownership of more than five percent of the class of securities described in Item 1; and (2) has filed no amendment subsequent thereto reporting beneficial ownership of five percent or less of such class.) (See Rule 13d-7.)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

(Continued on following page(s))

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CUSIP NO. 075887109

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

OPPENHEIMER GROUP, INC.
I.R.S. NO. 13-3331657

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)
(b) X

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

NUMBER OF 5	SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARE	0

BENEFICIALLY 6	SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY	21,607,785

EACH 7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING	0

PERSON 8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
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WITH 21,607,785

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
21,607,785

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
17.35%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
HC

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CUSIP NO. 075887109

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

OPPENHEIMER CAPITAL
I.R.S. NO. 13-3413767

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)
(b) X

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
DELAWARE

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARE 0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY 21,412,347

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING 0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH 21,412,347

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
21,412,347

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
17.20%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
IA

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Schedule 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this Statement

Item 1(b) Name of Issuer: BECTON DICKINSON & COMPANY

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:
 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880

Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc.

Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office:
 Oppenheimer Tower, World Financial Center
 New York, New York 10281

Item 2(c) Citizenship:
 Inapplicable

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:
 Common

Item 2(e) CUSIP Number: 075887109

Item 3(g) Parent Holding Company, in accordance with
 Section 240.13d - 1(b)(1)(ii)(G)
 See Exhibit I hereto

Item 4(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. - 21,607,785 *

Item 4(b) Percent of Class:
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. - 17.35% *

* Includes amount beneficially owned by Oppenheimer Capital as disclosed on Page 3 hereof.

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Item 4(c)(i) Sole Power to Vote or to direct the vote -
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. - 0

Item 4(c)(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote -
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. -21,607,785 *

Item 4(c)(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of -
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. - 0

Item 4(c)(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of -
 Oppenheimer Group, Inc. - 21,607,785 *

Item 5 Ownership to Five Percent or Less of a Class:
 Inapplicable

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of
 Another Person:
 See Exhibit A hereto

Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which
 Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding
 Company:
 See Exhibit II hereto

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:
 Inapplicable

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:
 Inapplicable

Item 10 Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and

were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: January 13, 1997

Signature: By: /s/ Robert I. Kleinberg

Name/Title: Robert I. Kleinberg, Vice President/Secretary

* Includes amount beneficially owned by Oppenheimer Capital as disclosed on Page 3 hereof.

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EXHIBIT A

The Managing General Partner of Oppenheimer Capital, a registered investment adviser, and certain persons to whom it has delegated the authority, have the power on behalf of Oppenheimer Capital to direct the use of dividends or proceeds of sale of more than five (5%) percent of such securities as disclosed on Page 3 hereof. The Board of Directors, certain officers and other employees of Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., a registered broker-dealer, have the power to direct the use of dividends or proceeds of sale of less than five (5%) percent of these securities.

MIK8-exhibit.A/2

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EXHIBIT I

Oppenheimer Group, Inc. ("Oppenheimer Group") is a holding company which owns directly and indirectly a variety of subsidiary companies ("Subsidiaries") including the companies identified on the exhibit to this Schedule 13G engaged in various aspects of the financial services business. 70.78% of the issued and outstanding common stock of Group is owned by Oppenheimer & Co., L.P. ("Oppenheimer LP") a Delaware limited partnership formed by the management of Oppenheimer. The general and limited partnership interests in Oppenheimer LP are owned by officers and employees of Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Oppenheimer LP. 29.22% of Group's capital stock has been issued to certain Oppenheimer LP warrant holders upon presentation for exercise of warrants issued to various investors in Oppenheimer LP's 1986 Private Placement. Opco, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Oppenheimer Group, is a diversified investment banking and securities firm. Oppenheimer Financial Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oppenheimer Group, is the sole general partner of Oppenheimer Capital, L.P. ("Opcap LP"), a limited partnership which owns a majority interest in Oppenheimer Capital general partnership, which carries on an investment advisory business activity directly and through certain investment advisory companies one of which serves as advisor to a group of mutual funds. The amendment to Schedule 13G is being filed by Oppenheimer Group as a parent holding company pursuant to the provisions of Rule 13(d) - (1) (b) on behalf of Oppenheimer LP and the Subsidiaries and/or certain investment advisory clients or discretionary accounts of the Subsidiaries and relating to their collective beneficial ownership of shares of common stock of the Issuer.

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Management of the affairs of Oppenheimer Group, the Subsidiaries and of certain advisory clients including decisions respecting dispositions and/or voting of the shares of the common stock of the Issuer resides in respective officers and directors of the Subsidiaries and is not directed by Oppenheimer Group or Oppenheimer LP.

Accordingly, the filing of this amendment to Schedule 13G by Oppenheimer Group is not intended as, and should not be deemed, an acknowledgment of beneficial ownership or shared voting or dispositive power by Oppenheimer Group, Oppenheimer LP or any intermediary company of the shares of the common stock of the Issuer owned by such Subsidiaries or investment advisory clients of investment advisory clients, such beneficial ownership or attribution or shared voting or dispositive power being disclaimed.

EXHIBIT II

The Parent Holding Company is filing on behalf of Oppenheimer Financial Corp., Oppenheimer Equities, Inc. and Oppenheimer Holdings, Inc. which would be classified as Item 3(g), Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. which would be classified as Item 3(a), and Oppenheimer Capital which would be classified as Item 3(e).

MIK8-EX-IIB

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EXHIBIT III

The undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that a report on Schedule 13G being filed by Oppenheimer Group, Inc. on or about the date hereof, relating to the common stock of Becton Dickenson & Company is filed on behalf of the undersigned.

DATED: January 13, 1997

OPPENHEIMER CAPITAL

By: /s/ Robert I. Kleinberg
Robert I. Kleinberg
Vice President & Secretary of
Oppenheimer Financial Corp.,
The Managing General Partner.

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