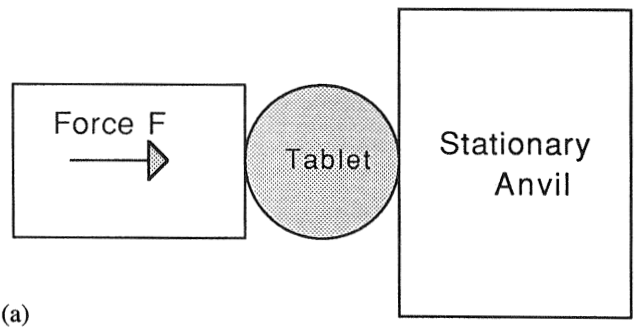
8. TABLETS

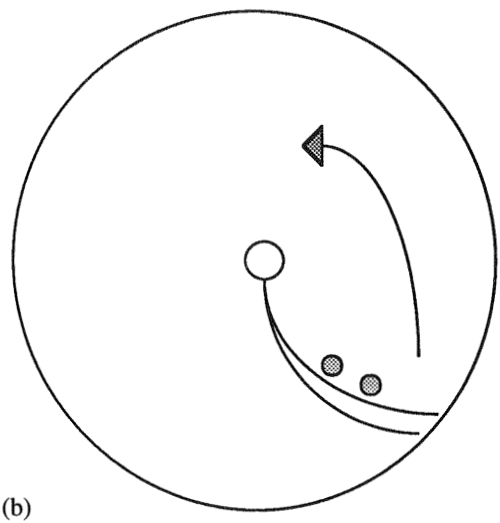
The physical properties associated with tablets are disintegration, dissolution, hardness, appearance, and associated properties (including slurry pH). For special tablet products (e.g., chewable tablets) organoleptic properties become important. These have been described earlier, but in the case of tablets, the chewability and mouth feel also become of importance. The properties will be discussed individually below.

8.1. Tablet Hardness

The "hardness" properties of a tablet are usually assessed by subjecting the tablets to a diametral failure test. The tablet is placed (Fig. 17) between two anvils, one of which is stationary. The other anvil is moved at constant speed against the tablet, and the force (as a function of time) is recorded. The force, at which the tablet breaks is denoted the "hardness" and is usually measured in kp (kilopond = kilogram



(a)



(b)

Fig. 17 (a) Hardness tester and (b) friabilator.