that he is on less stable ground than the paleontologist who, for example, in the case of the horse has dug up the actual tree out of the successive Tertiary strata. Ontogenetic development undoubtedly makes us acquainted with cænogenetic variations which have been the cause of many a premature conclusion. In Tarsius, however, it was not to any changes, hypothetical or otherwise, that attention was directed by me, but on the contrary to a *persistence* of a most unexpected *agreement* which reveals itself in the numerous details of a complicated arrangement, such as is only found in man, the monkeys (as far as investigated) and Tarsius. And whoever calls attention, as Mr. Earle does, to the liability of embryological structures to vary must necessarily recognize the high value of those cases in which there is evidence not of variation, but of stability. It is because of this stability that Tarsius should be placed somewhere between (though not, of course, in the direct line) the Anthropoids and their unknown Mesozoic ancestors with a non-diffuse placentation.

Mr. Earle's assumption that the diffuse stage of placentation of some of the Anthropoids is apparently directly comparable to that of the Lemurs is invalidated by recent researches on early human plastocysts, researches which all tend to confirm the objections against such comparison which were raised by me in 1889 (*Quar. Journ. of Micr. Science*, Vol. 30, p. 364 and p. 382).

Finally, Mr. Earle's contention "that it has not been shown as yet that the placenta in the lemurs is not a derivative of the chorion, as in the apes," although perfectly justified when it was written, is nevertheless unsupported by the actual facts.

Since Milne-Edwards has emitted the opinion which Mr. Earle cites in a footnote, the Lemurine placentation has been again described in the *Quart. Journ. of Micr. Science*, Vol. 36, p. 90, pl. 9–12. In addition to that I may now state, on the strength of observations as yet unpublished, that in a true Lemur, such as Nycticebus, the fusion of the vascular walls of the allantois with the non-vascular diplotrophoblast can be followed step by step. It is a totally different process from that by which the vascular chorion of man, monkey and Tarsius comes into existence.

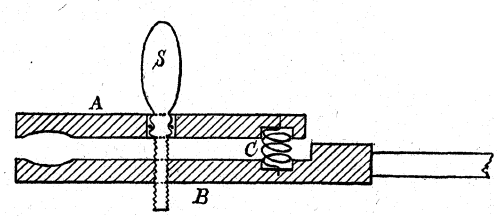
Another important point of difference between Lemurs and Tarsius which I have only lately been able to establish, thanks to the preparations just alluded to, is the presence in Nycticebus of a typical proamnion, so common among the lower Placental Mammalia and wholly absent in Tarsius and in man.

A. A. W. HUBRECHT.

UTRECHT, May 18, 1897.

A CLAMP FOR FRAGILE GLASSWARE.

WE have for some time been using a simple modification of the well-known wood clamp, which has given sufficient satisfaction to warrant a brief description. The clamp is constructed for holding light tubular glassware like Crookes' tubes, and it acts at once as a screw clamp and a spring clamp. The jaws, *A*, *B*, are set at any desirable distance apart by the screw, *S*. Loose pins allow *A* to rock slightly in the plane of the screw. The spring, *C*, in the rear presses strongly outward. When set, the jaws may thus be further opened (like a spring clip) by compressing the spring, *C*, with the hand. The jaws may be either flat or notched and need no packing.



This clamp has the following advantages: By aid of the screw the clamp may be adjusted to fit any tube up to over 2 inches for the ordinary size of clamp. The tube is removed or again inserted by mere pressure of the hand in the rear end of the jaws, *A*, *B;* the gradual counter-pressure of the spring prevents crushing of fragile apparatus, even when no cork or rubber cushion is used, while it can be intensified to hold very heavy objects.*

CARL BARUS.

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* The clamp can be obtained from Eimer & Amend, in New York.