

engineering; Carl Bertram Harrop, E.M., to be assistant professor of ceramic engineering; Aubrey Ingerson Brown, M.E., to be instructor in mechanical engineering. Mr. Franklin Wales Marquis, M.E., of the University of Illinois, has been appointed professor of steam engineering to succeed Mr. E. A. Hitchcock, M.E., who resigned last spring to accept a position as sales engineer with E. W. Clark & Co.

MR. G. D. HORTON, M.S. (Yale, '13), has been appointed instructor in bacteriology in the Oregon Agricultural College.

MISS E. M. PINNEY, formerly instructor in zoology, at the University of Kansas, has been appointed demonstrator in biology in Bryn Mawr College, to succeed Dr. Harriet Randolph, who is at present in Europe.

THE following appointments have been made at the University of Birmingham: Mr. L. J. Wills, assistant lecturer in geology and geography; Mr. David Brunt, lecturer in mathematics (to succeed Mr. S. B. McLaren); Dr. C. L. Boulenger, reader in helminthology; Mr. H. G. Jackson, assistant lecturer in zoology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

LABELING MICROSCOPIC SLIDES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Two things are absolutely essential to properly prepared microscopic slides; these are permanent labels and cleanliness. I have been interested in two notes that have recently appeared in SCIENCE, namely, one by Zea Northrup in the July 25 issue and, the other, by Ernest S. Reynolds, in the September 12 number. The paper labels usually affixed to the slides of a study or loan collection soon become soiled and the data more or less effaced. To obviate this, several years ago I commenced to use small and very thin paper slips upon which the data were written in "Higgin's Waterproof (Black) India Ink," placed under the cover-glass at one of the angles and in this way mounted with the specimens. I have observed this method in use at several institutions. This technical procedure permits dipping of the slides into water and their subsequent clean-

ing and polishing with a soft cotton cloth. The covering of the India ink label with balsam and cover-glass, as recommended by Reynolds, is an excellent method. I do not think it wise to trust to "merely printing or writing the necessary description upon the slide with India ink" as recommended by Northrup. A person can not always be sure that the writing surface is free from oily matter. Disappointment frequently attends this procedure. For some time I have used the following method: The essential data are neatly written or printed across one end of the slide as close as possible to the cover-glass and, after the ink has dried, a thin layer of Canada balsam in xylol—two to one—is painted with a camel's hair brush across the slide over the label. After the balsam has become thoroughly hardened the slide can be dipped into cold water and cleaned with a soft cotton cloth, as above. Care should at all times be taken to avoid having the slides come in contact with alcohol or xylol. Should such a thing happen the surface of the balsam can be restored by reapplication of the thin balsam. The first slide of a series or set should bear a paper label as well as the ink inscription.

FRANK E. BLAISDELL

SURGICAL PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF
STANFORD UNIVERSITY,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

A NORTHERLY RECORD FOR THE FREE-TAILED BAT

ON the morning of August 15, 1913, I picked up a live male free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomus mexicanus* Saussure) on the pavement on the main business street of Lincoln, Nebraska. It was huddled against the wall at the corner of what is probably the most brilliantly lighted building on the street where it was presumably attracted by the illumination the previous night. The specimen is now in the author's collection where it has been seen by Mr. Vernon Bailey, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who has verified the determination.

This bat normally occurs in the United States in the Lower Sonoran fauna of Texas,