

drawing on the blackboard. In the first case the good teacher usually feels there is a failure of full elucidation on his part, while in the second case valuable time is lost, and a break is made in the lecture.

To overcome this difficulty the writer recently devised a simple plan to make line drawings and diagrams on glass slides to be used as regular lantern sides. Clean lantern slide covers are taken, and on them the objects desired are drawn with a "china marking pencil." One must not lift the pencil from the glass while drawing, or else use great care at the points where the pencil is lifted and the same line then continued. It is not necessary to make an absolutely black line, as any mark shows plainly. A few trials will show how sharp one's pencil should be for the best results. As wide a margin must be left as in making ordinary slides. If a mistake is made it can be erased with the finger or a blunt piece of wood. The mark does not rub out too easily, consequently the slides can be used without the further trouble of covering if they are to be of a temporary nature. However, they can be fixed permanently by finishing them in the usual way with a clean cover slip and bound with tape.

As the "china marking pencils" come in at least three colors, black, blue and red, and as their cost is slight (15 cents) and the whole process is simple and short, their use in this way is practicable and inexpensive. The pencils can be purchased at any good stationery store.

HORACE GUNTHERP

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A SUGGESTION FOR MAKING THIN SECTIONS FOR BRYOZOAN SLIDES

IN making thin sections for bryozoan slides it has been noted by the writer that many of them have a frosty, crystalline appearance when they have been ground to the desired thickness. In the process of grinding, numerous small particles of calcium carbonate are forced into the openings, obscuring the structure. As these fine particles have relatively large surface exposure, they will dissolve much

more readily than the rest of the fossil when treated with dilute hydrochloric acid. It is best to let the acid act for only a very short time and then wash it off quickly, repeating the treatment several times, if necessary, until the structure stands out clearly.

CHARLES E. DECKER

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

A NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM

Now that America is engaged in the grim business of war for the defense of democracy, we are tempted in our zeal to forget the things which are purely sentimental because of the pressing needs of the things practical.

But with the dreaded arrival of casualty lists, the great heart of the nation has been deeply stirred, the grief of America stands in yearning need of sentiment. And so sentiment—pure sentiment—sponsors the thought that the American people have a real need for a recognized national floral emblem.

When the cherished day of peace arrives, how shall we greet our boys returning from the front? With flowers? Of course, but how with flowers? Goldenrods? Daisies? Violets? Yes, with all of these, but national sentiments might well be crystallized on a single national symbolic flower.

The rose of old England, the Fleur-de-lis of France, the thistle of Scotland, the chrysanthemum of Japan; all these remind us that America at present does not possess a floral emblem to epitomize the things that are noble and good in the nation.

Why should not all that is best in the American nation be symbolized in a flower as a national emblem? The very mention of such a symbol should stir the depths of patriotism in the breast of every true American. Surely Germany is the loser by not having a well-known floral emblem. In Europe, America has been criticized for being too material—would not the adoption of a national flower be an esthetic step in the right direction?

If, then, it is agreed that America will be benefited by possessing a recognized national floral emblem, the selection of a suitable flower is a difficult task indeed. The flora of the country is so rich that the choice