earliest stages and subsequent transformation." "The equivalence of hematopoietic anlages" is, as may be read in the article, a reference to hematopoietic centers. This paper states that the endothelial cell is "a hematopoietic anlage," that is, a *source* of blood corpuscles. That it does not give rise to blood-cells (is not such an anlage) is the converse of this proposition, as recently expressed in the *British Journal*. All organs in young embryos instead of being called hearts, stomachs, etc., may be called anlages of the same, giving abundant opportunity to employ the word, and necessitating references to "early anlages." In numberless cases it is used in place of a more exact term, *e. g.*, anlage of the liver, for hepatic diverticulum, or is introduced redundantly, as "the evagination which forms (the anlage of) the arm." Its entire absence from many of the most technical and best expressed embryological papers shows clearly that it is not needed. Is the English language enriched by it? It certainly could be employed in general literature:

> Tall oaks from little anlages grow,
> Large streams from little anlages flow.

The child is anlage of the man; and Lowell might exclaim, Puritanism—the anlage of democracy!

But in the interest of scientific accuracy and purer English it should be deleted. The term, if it remains, will mark the period of German dominance in American embryology.

Frederic T. Lewis

A SIMPLE COVERING DEVICE FOR THE OCULAR OF THE MICROSCOPE

To the Editor of Science: I have experienced so much trouble and expense from the injury to eye-glasses by contact with the ocular of the microscope, that I venture to describe my experience in solving the problem in the hope that it may be of interest to others similarly annoyed. Not being able to use the microscope without the correction to vision afforded by the eye lenses, I found for a number of years that the harder glass in the ocular invariably—in the course of six months or a year—covered the eye lenses with a maze of minute scratches and abrasions, rendering them unfit for further use and necessitating a very considerable expense in the purchase of new lenses, to say nothing of the lowered efficiency of the damaged glasses in the interim.

I first secured from one of the leading optical companies a pair of heavy rubber caps such as are used by them as a dust cap to protect oculars in storage. By cutting away a circular opening in the center of the cap (do not make it too large) I found the rim of rubber kept the two sets of lenses from coming in contact. These caps can readily be shifted from one ocular to another as occasion demands, or the cost is so slight that several sets can be afforded. They are, however, rather cumbersome and force the eye away from the lens perhaps an eighth of an inch, which is not always satisfactory.

A much simpler and, on the whole, more satisfactory device may be made by taking a circular piece of ordinary sheet rubber (such as dentists use extensively) about an inch and a half in diameter; cutting a small hole at the center, and stretching and tying it securely with fine thread below the knurled cap of the ocular. This allows the eye to approach very closely to the ocular; and, besides thoroughly safeguarding the eye-glasses from injury, it does away with the very annoying noise caused by the constant shifting of the two glass lenses on each other.

I now have every ocular covered in this way and shall never again be without the comfort and economy so afforded.

Clell Lee Metcalf
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CURIOUS DIFFERENTIATION IN FROST EFFECTS

To the Editor of Science: A curious differentiation in frost effects on foliage came under the writer's observation yesterday. On Friday morning, November 1, a self-recording standard thermometer registered 32 degrees F. as the minimum during the preceding night, followed by a record of 31 degrees the follow-