elimination of sources of infection of crop plants.

The writer appreciates the danger of generalizing upon such a subject. However the two conditions, the one a prompt utilization of all vegetable material and the other an almost entire absence of leaf spot diseases, are both so noticeable that the coincidence and suggested explanation seem worthy of note.

Atherton Lee

Bureau of Plant Industry

A METHOD OF IMBEDDING IN PARAFFINE

The following method of imbedding tissues in paraffine preparatory to sectioning has proven so satisfactory in routine work in our laboratory that this brief note of description is offered.

The imbedding is done in paraffine buttons formed on the surface of cold water. Melted paraffine is allowed to flow from a pipette down the side of a glass dish with sloping wall, such as a finger bowl, nearly full of water. On reaching the surface, the paraffine hardens below, forming a button still liquid above and anchored securely at one edge to the glass. The tissue is now placed in the fluid paraffine and oriented. More paraffine may then be added to thicken the button if necessary. A label is attached by its end with a small drop of paraffine. The button is then disengaged from the class by a dissecting needle and carried on the point of the latter below the surface. It is at once transformed to a glass of water inverted over a basin, where it remains until solid.

Large thick buttons may be obtained in this way without the use of glycerin, paper boats or frames. The rapidity with which imbedding may be done by this method is perhaps its chief recommendation.

Leo H. Schatz

Reed College

QUOTATIONS

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH IN ENGLAND

The fourth annual report of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has just been issued; it covers the period from August 1, 1918, to July 31, 1919. Earl Curzon, of Kedleston, the Lord President, records that during the past year the work of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has steadily grown in usefulness and in amount. The passage from war to peace, he says, reveals more and more clearly as it proceeds the need for the sympathetic encouragement and organization of research in every sphere of national life. Encouraging progress is recorded in several directions. Thus a marked change is observed to be taking place in the attitude of industry towards scientific research; both masters and men are beginning to recognize its vital importance. Something also has been done to increase the number of trained research workers, the demand for whose services rose rapidly not only in industries, but also in the universities and government departments. The report of the Advisory Council, signed by the administrative chairman, Sir William McCormick, describes in greater detail the various branches of the department's work. The work of the Food Investigation Board grew enormously during the year. The field to be covered is so large and the range of scientific knowledge so wide, that only a complex organization could hope to deal with the problems effectively. The board accordingly set up six committees to deal respectively with fish preservation, engineering, meat preservation, fruit and vegetables, oils and fats, and canned foods; and these committees have in turn appointed seven special committees. The therapeutic uses of oxygen, shown by recent practise to be capable of very great extension, and being actively investigated by the Medical Research Committee in close cooperation with the Oxygen Research Committee of the Department. The Industrial Fatigue Research Board was established jointly by the Medical Research Committee and the Department, the former being responsible for administration. The demands made upon the Board have far exceeded all anticipation, while industrial un-