

worthy Haidas of Masset, B. C., who are capable of corresponding and executing the purchase of a pole or poles, and of engaging other help and superintending the lowering and creating of poles, their transportation across the inlet from Yan to the wharf at Masset and their shipment to destination. The poles are very heavy and the cost of handling will be perhaps equal to the price of the poles. They are soft and their own weight will crush parts of the carvings unless they are properly crated. Some of the poles 50 to 60 feet in length may have to be cut in sections for shipment.

Here is an opportunity. Examples of this unique art now going to decay may be rescued, loaded and started on their way to safe-keeping in our museums at the rate of about one hundred dollars per specimen.

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#### TO KILL CATS FOR LABORATORY USE

A QUICK and humane method of killing a cat or other small mammal in the laboratory is to put the animal under an open topped bell jar, *i. e.*, a bell jar which has a small bottle-like neck at the top through which there is an opening. This mouth should be comparatively small, not over a half inch in diameter, and the neck should be at least an inch long. After the animal has been placed under the bell jar, a very small quantity of ether or chloroform is poured through the opening in the top, and it is then corked up. The liquid strikes the sides of the neck and immediately runs down in a thin film over the inner surface of the bell jar and evaporates into the chamber in two or three seconds. The enclosed animal shows its effects almost immediately, and dies in a very short time.

While it is not necessary, it is better to seal up the base of the bell jar because occasionally the animal falls down after it becomes unconscious, and its head comes in close proximity to the crack between the jar and the object on which it is placed, and it thus obtains sufficient air to delay its death. This can be pre-

vented by wrapping a damp towel around the base so as to exclude the air. By placing the bell jar on a glass plate and sealing with vaseline, an airtight chamber can be made, but the advantage thus gained does not make up for the care necessary in order to avoid getting one's clothing in contact with the greased surfaces.

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#### ANTS AND SCIENTISTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As a result of watching a colony of ants and attending a scientific meeting on the afternoon and evening of the same day, it seemed to me the two teeming hordes of excited workers—the insects and the scientists—had some queer traits in common, as:

1. How they work in ranks and cohorts, mutually attracted by some exciting discovery that a wandering member has stumbled upon, and that awakens the most astounding and intense interest.

2. How they immediately set to work to pull opposite ways, fight valiantly over their treasure, and heroically keep it up after they have amputated some of each others' legs and other appendages.

3. How they take up one thing, drag it about for a time, and then drop it for some other thing.

4. How they often expend enormous labor on something that isn't worth a darn; and here Mark Twain's story of the two ants and the grasshopper leg came to mind.

5. How their splendid industry is generally circular in direction; so that after long struggle, they get the thing back to the exact spot from which it started.

6. How they firmly believe that "they are the people" and refuse to admit or bother over bigger intelligences that are their interested observers and that can and sometimes do sweep them and their hills and runways and stores into oblivion.

7. How, measured by final results, they are nevertheless a wonderful body of workers;