to vertebrate paleontologists. The scene was at the great Falls of the Missouri.

There are vast quantities of buffalo feeding on the plains or watering in the river, which is also strewed with the floating carcases and limbs of these animals. They go in large herds to water about the falls, and as all the passages to the river near that place are narrow and steep, the foremost are pressed into the river by the impatience of those behind. In this way we have seen ten or a dozen disappear over the falls in a few minutes. They afford excellent food for the wolves, bears, and birds of prey; and this circumstance may account for the reluctance of the bears to yield their dominion over the neighborhood.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

APPARATUS FOR SLIDE TECHNIQUE

THE apparatus illustrated in the following figures has been found very practical and a great time-saver in the preparation of slides. The small cost of materials and time required for construction are negligible, compared with the efficient service they render.

WARMING PLATE FOR SPREADING PARAFFIN SECTIONS

The warming plate shown in Fig. A is practically

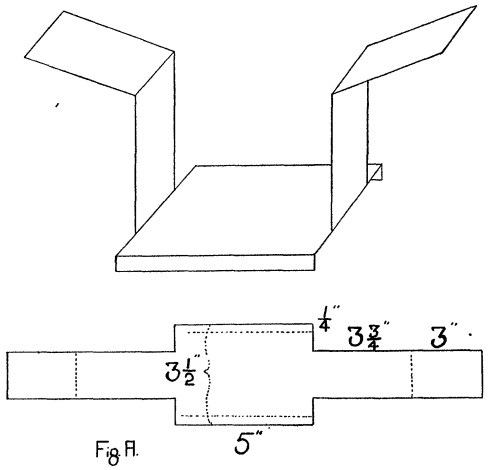

Fig. A.

self-explanatory for its use in spreading paraffin sections. It is made from a single sheet of thin copper and heated by conduction from alcohol flames under the wing tips. By placing bits of paraffin, having the same melting point as that used in preparing the tissue, on the ends of the stage, the best working temperature can be determined and controlled by moving the flames closer to or farther away from the wing tips. The small diagram gives the dimensions and shows the shape of the sheet before being bent. The height of the wings could be changed to compensate for the lamp to be used.

SLIDE DRYING CABINET

In preparing a large number of slides for study, it is advantageous to hasten the drying of the balsam after the covers are in place. The slide drying cabinet in Fig. B is a very efficient piece of apparatus for

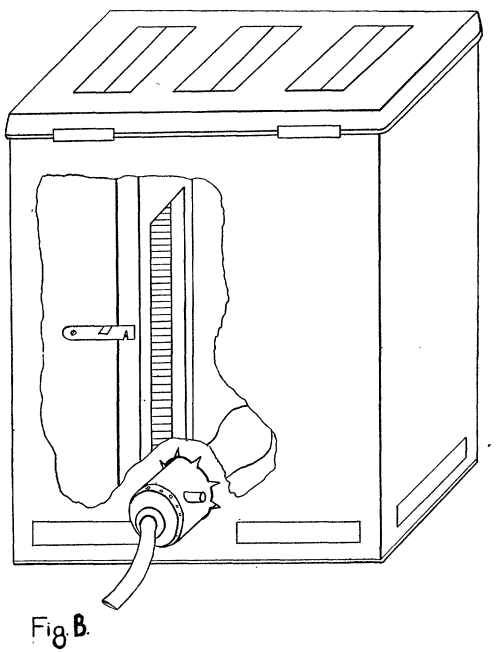
Fig. B.

this purpose. It was made from a cracker can, two slide boxes, a small sheet of copper and a light socket with several feet of cord.

The light socket was placed in the rear wall so that the bulb would just clear the bottom and give room for a slide box to stand on end on either side. A 25 watt clear bulb furnishes sufficient heat for good circulation of air without having a temperature over 50° C. The air enters through the openings at the bottom, passes over the slides and goes out through the openings in the lid. A copper slide, supported beneath the lid, makes it possible to close the openings if a higher temperature is desired.

Through the opening in the back of the cabinet a slide box can be seen in position. The lids and bottoms were cut out, leaving just enough edge to hold the slides. Catches on the sides hold the lids firmly in place. After 48 hours in the drying cabinet slides are ready for their final cleaning and polishing.

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