had lived to the fourth day of incubation or longer were examined for possible duplication.

Two sets of complete, monovular twins, 27 anterior duplications and 63 posterior duplications were found among 64,716 Single Comb Rhode Island Red embryos and chicks examined. Among 57,646 embryos and chicks from various other breeds and crosses, there were one set of complete monovular twins, 12 anterior and 31 posterior duplications. Thus there was a total of 92, or 0.142 per cent. of duplication among Single Comb Rhode Island Reds but only 44, or 0.076 per cent. among the others. The probability that the difference between these two groups is due to chance is less than one in a hundred as judged by the X^2 test. Further, the incidence of duplication among the Rhode Island Reds was greater than that for the mixed group in each of the five years during which data were collected.

Stockard[1] attributed polyembryony in birds to interruption of development before the completion of gastrulation. Riddle[2] sought to test Stockard's hypothesis by retarding the development of prematurely laid (4 to 24 hours) eggs of pigeons and doves but was unable to produce duplications. The difference in incidence of duplication between the two groups of data presented in the present communication may indicate the presence of inherited factors influencing duplication among chick embryos. Obviously, the presence of such factors has not been demonstrated.

T. C. BYERLY
M. W. OLSEN

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOME NEW RECORDS OF OCCURRENCE OF NORTH AMERICAN FRESH-WATER SPONGES

So little is known of the distribution of fresh-water sponges on our western coast that it seems wise to make available all findings as a matter of record.

Through the kind cooperation of Dr. L. E. Griffin, of Reed College, Portland, Oregon, we have been enabled to examine two specimens from his collections. The first is a specimen of *Spongilla fragilis,* taken from a flume leading from a pond on the college campus. It was collected in October, 1929. The sponge is full of very abnormal spicules. The skeletal ones are smooth amphioxi, many of them bearing ball-like enlargements in the centers; other types of irregularities are also numerous. The gemmule spicules are extremely variable in size and are also often quite abnormal in structure, enlarged in the center or provided with angular projections. There are large numbers of small balls of silica, several times the diameter of the skeleton spicules, scattered through the sponge; some of them are regular smooth spheres, while others are distorted in shape and bear spines projecting at right angles to their surfaces—the spines vary a great deal in size and in number from one or two to many. The second specimen is *Spongilla lacustris,* collected by M. R. Clare in August, 1928, from Mud Lake, west of Bend, Oregon, in the Cascade Mountains, at an elevation of about 4,500 feet. The specimen bore no gemmules.

Dr. Trevor Kincaid has kindly given me bits of three specimens from his collection. Two specimens were collected from Lake Ozette in the extreme northwest corner of the state of Washington on May 29, 1932. One of these is *Spongilla lacustris,* with thin skeleton spicules, and the other is *Spongilla fragilis,* with very variable gemmule spicules. The third specimen from Dr. Kincaid was taken from the interior of a wooden pipe on the shore of Lake Washington, not far from the University of Washington, where Dr. Kincaid is head of the department of zoology. This specimen unfortunately does not bear any gemmules and can not be identified.

Dr. Jacques Rousseau and Dr. F. M. Victorin, of Quebec, Canada, have kindly sent me three more specimens of Canadian fresh-water sponges from new localities. One is a specimen of *Spongilla lacustris* from "Lac Jaune, near Quebec City, Province of Quebec, August 5th, 1931: collected by Br. Anselme." A second is also a *Spongilla lacustris,* collected by Dr. Victorin in "St. Theodore Co., Joliette, in Laurentides, North of Quebec, September 5th, 1931"; this sponge has somewhat heavier skeleton spicules than those of the first specimen. The third specimen is *Spongilla fragilis,* collected by Dr. F. M. Victorin and Jules Brunel in "Canal de Chambly, Conté Chambly, Province de Québec."

The writer has also collected some very small, young sponges from a lake in Seattle, Washington, in the fall of 1933, but since the skeleton spicules are regular smooth amphioxi and no gemmules are present, the sponge can not be finally identified. In the fall of 1932, the writer also collected *Spongilla fragilis* in very great abundance from a pond near Spring Valley, N. Y., where it was covering the stems of plants and the wall of a stone-lined runway with a thin coat over large areas. The pond had been drained and the sponge was very full of gemmules.

NATHANIEL GIST GEE

AMERICAN OFFICE
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

SWARMING BEETLES

ON July 15, 1934, on the summit of Mount Pisgah, in North Carolina, I observed a swarming of Coc-

[1] C. R. Stockard, *Am. Jour. Anat.,* 28: 115–277, 1921.
[2] O. Riddle, *Am. Jour. Anat.,* 32: 199–252, 1923.

cinellid beetles which was unique in my experience. The summit of Pisgah—altitude 5,750 feet— is covered by a dense growth of laurel which was still in bloom. There is also a variety of other shrubbery and herbaceous vegetation, and no evident connection between the beetles and any special type of plant was noted. The day was comfortably warm—about 80°; the sky was about three fourths overcast by stratocumulus clouds and there was a gentle breeze. The hour was about noon.

At several points on the very summit the beetles occurred in masses on the ground and covering the stems of the bushes. They clung to each other in such a way as to completely cover the surface they were on and several layers in depth. For the most part they were quiescent but moved about actively when disturbed. They did not readily take flight. I have identified the species as *Hippodamia convergens*.

J. I. HAMAKER
RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

A LOW TEMPERATURE SEMI-MICRO STILL

WHILE condensing some acetylated sugars, it was decided that the removal of one of the reagents (dihydroxyacetone monoacetate) could best be accomplished by distillation.

The thermo-fragility and high boiling point of this monoacetate (96° at 1 mm), as well as the small amount of the condensation product produced, demanded of the still certain characteristics which were embodied in the design shown in the figure.

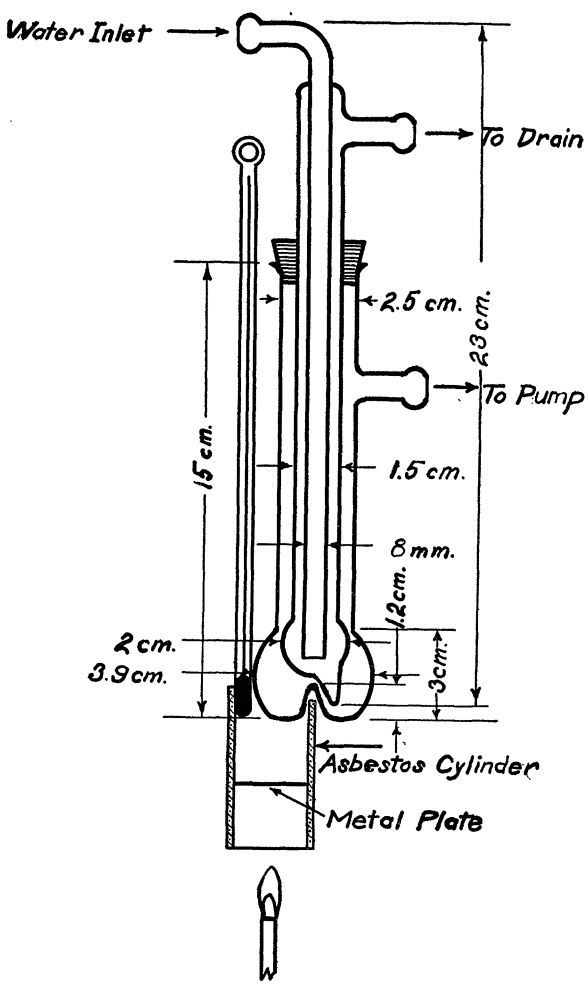

FIG. 1

The still consists essentially of a two-lobed glass flask. One lobe is for the material which is to be distilled, and the other is for the distillate. The vapors condense on the internal condenser, and the condensate drips off the teat into the receiving lobe.

When the still was used, the lobes were thermally separated by a thin strip of asbestos paper which encircled the distilling lobe and a thermometer bulb. A small metal plate was fastened in the center of this asbestos cylinder. An air-bath was constructed in this way, and the metal plate was heated by a micro burner. The receiving lobe was cooled by a wrapping of cloth wick which was kept moist by placing one end into a beaker of water. Cold water was run through the condenser. The distilling lobe was filled by the use of a pipette, and at the end of the distillation, the residue, which was a viscous liquid, was dissolved in water and removed by the use of a pipette.

An oil pump which produced a pressure of less than 1 mm was employed for distilling the monoacetate, and found to work well with a temperature difference of about 25° between the lobes.

If more involatile substances are encountered, the distillation may be facilitated by the use of a mercury or butyl phthalate pump backed by the oil pump, and a greater temperature difference attained by surrounding the receiving lobe with a freezing mixture held in a tin vessel bent to the proper shape. The condenser can be cooled better by circulating cold brine through it, or by vacuum-evaporating ether in it.

CHARLES L. BERNIER
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NEW TYPE RAZOR HOLDER FOR ROTARY MICROTOME

THE razor holder here described was designed for use on the Spencer rotary microtome. The ordinary heavy microtome knife has been objectionable because