SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1941

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The new Fisher AC Model Electrophotometer permits colorimetric analyses to be made accurately, quickly and simply wherever the color of the solution varies in a definite manner with the concentration of a constituent. It has unique, valuable features which now enable the laboratorian to employ this rapid method for control or research work.

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5



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EACH AFTER HIS KIND¹

By Dr. LEON J. COLE

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

HAVING chosen a biblical title for my talk this evening, I may well conform to classical, and clerical, precedent by following it with an appropriate text. My text, then, is taken from the first and second chapters of the Book of Genesis.

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And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast

¹ Address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of the Section for the Zoological Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Philadelphia, December 31, 1940. of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; ...

Thus we see that the science, or at any rate the art, of nomenclature had a simple and auspicious beginning. Not only was Adam assured on the highest authority that "every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air" would continue to reproduce with fidelity "after his kind," but that whatever names he should give to them would stick—a boon that would be greatly appreciated by present-day taxonomists. Verily, the Garden of Eden at that time was a nomenclator's paradise, for every species was a new one and there was no need to search through dusty tomes for the content of LX-291 resin increases. The mixtures are most readily prepared by blending the weighed portions of paraffin and resin at a temperature of about 170° C., and filtering. Five per cent., 10 per cent., 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. solutions have been used in practical work, though solutions of higher concentration have been made. All melt over a range of several degrees, the lower limit of each being within one degree of 55° C. A paraffin oven set at 59° C. is satisfactory for all.

Best results are obtained by infiltrating tissues in pure paraffin, in a 5 per cent. mixture or in a 10 per cent. mixture, and imbedding in a harder medium. The hardness of that part of the block composed of tissue plus infiltrating medium should be about equal to, but in any event should not exceed, the hardness of that part consising of imbedding medium. It is desirable to use a wetting agent in the fluid used to float the sections on the slide, especially for thinner ones where incorrect infiltrating and imbedding media may result in production of fine creases in the tissue of the section. If the section is overheated on the slide or if the fluid is allowed to cool too long before it is drained off, the imbedding medium will shrink slightly, but the tissue will not.

So much of the relative success of cutting sections depends upon the degree of perfection of the knife edge that no attempt will be made here to list the range of thickness of sections which can be cut best with each paraffin-resin imbedding (not infiltrating) medium. Under comparable conditions in one certain case, the following observations were made. With a 10 per cent. solution as the imbedding medium, sections thicker than 12μ failed to ribbon well, while sections thinner than 4μ were deemed to be too wrinkled to be designated as good, although those of 3μ and 2μ were usable. With a 50 per cent. solution as the imbedding medium, sections of 1μ were the only ones that would ribbon. These sections exhibited about the same horizontal compression as did the 5μ sections of the 10 per cent. mixture, albeit the ribbon was so light that it was very difficult to handle. Invariably, as the medium becomes harder the range of thickness of sections which can be cut well becomes narrower and shifts downwards. Thicker sections in each range show less horizontal compression than thinner sections, but among ranges this horizontal compression of sections in comparable parts of the ranges is about equal.

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

A MICROFILM CAMERA

RICHARD A. GROAT

THE recent discussions of equipment for microfilming have overlooked one means of making a truly precision camera suitable for short-run and volume work in the small school with limited facilities. This equipment can easily be built around one of the discontinued 35 mm moving picture cameras which are still to be found on secondhand shelves. The author picked up such a camera for \$10, mounted a shutter before the lens to produce a camera suitable for microfilming in color and in black and white. The lens is unquestionably superior to those found in the less expensive miniature cameras; the camera is ruggedly constructed and holds enough films for the photographing of a small volume on a single roll-250 single frame pictures.

The camera is a Sept, a spring-driven camera with a color-corrected, anastigmatic f 3.5 lens, popular in the days of silent films with the many eclectic news cameramen. This camera with the prefixed shutter may be mounted on a stand such as that described by English¹ to give an assembly capable of producing microfilm equal to that of many commercial laboratories.

The writer reads his microfilm in two visual magnifiers,² mounted on illuminated bases which were made at a cost of approximately \$1.00 each. Two readers are indispensable for cross-referring; but possibly the chief advantage in having two readers is that they enable one to photograph the even-numbered and oddnumbered pages on different rolls, thus eliminating the moving and centering of the copy after each exposure; a roll goes into each machine and they are then used alternately.

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¹ F. L. English, American Photography, 32: 825, 1938. ² Herman Branson, School, Science and Mathematics, 40: 411, 1940.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALLEN, ARTHUR A. Ornithology Laboratory Notebook. Fourth edition, revised. Pp. iii + 204. Illustrated. \$3.00. Comstock.
- BURDON, R. S. Surface Tension and the Spreading of Liquids. Pp. xii+85. versity Press, Macmillan. xii + 85. 19 figures. Cambridge Uni-\$1.75.
- GOURLEY, JOSEPH H. and FREEMAN S. HOWLETT. Modern Fruit Production. Pp. vii+579. 87 figures. Mac-\$4.50. millan.
- HU. HSEN H. and RALPH W. CHANEY. A Miocene Flora from Shantung Province, China. Part I, Introduction and Systematic Considerations. Part II, Physical Conditions and Correlation. Pp. vi+147. 57 plates. Carnegie Institution of Washington. \$3.25.
- LIPMAN, J. G., J. S. JOFFE and ADRIENNE B. CONYBEARE. Analyses of United States Soils. Section I; North Atlantic States. New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick. \$0.50.
- Magic in a Bottle. Pp. xi + 332. SILVERMAN, MILTON. Macmillan. \$2.50. Svenska Linné = Sällskapets Årsskrift. Årg. XXIII, 1940.
- Pp. 121. Illustrated. Almqvist and Wiksells, Uppsala. WHITBECK, R. H. and V. C. FINCH. Economic Geography,
- a Regional Survey. Fourth edition 647. 315 figures. McGraw-Hill. Fourth edition, revised. Pp. xii +
 - \$3.50.

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By **EDWIN SUTERMEISTER**, Research Chemist, S. D. Warren Company. The aim of this book is to present in as simple language as possible the chemical aspects of the pulp and paper industry which will enable the reader to understand the methods of manufacture. Thirteen specialists have contributed material.

Third Edition; Approximately 570 pages; 98 illustrations;

6 by 9; Probable price, \$6.50

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