rate of rotation of meter B, keeping the composition of the mixture constant at all times. The apparatus is not designed to work against a large back pressure. Excess moisture can be removed from the gas mixture by passing it through a bottle immersed in cold running water.

Table 1 shows the composition of mixtures of nitrogen and atmospheric air produced with various gear ratios (H:H′) at a rate of flow of 2–8 liters per minute. An advantage of this apparatus is its ability to produce gas mixtures of constant composition, despite fluctuations in the rate of flow.

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SIMPLE FLOOR-NET FOR CATCHING THE ESCAPED LABORATORY RODENT

To save considerable time lost through the employment of many inefficient devices to capture animals that have escaped from their cages, I have constructed a simple net which may be used for the common laboratory rodents, rat, mouse and guinea pig, and in a larger size for rabbits.

Rats and mice, as well as guinea pigs to a lesser extent, are negatively phototropic. For example, I have seen escaped rats and mice kill themselves because of this tendency. By spying solid, black objects such as table legs or iron stoves and by considering these to be darkened holes in their momentarily confused landscape, they have crashed headlong into them. Therefore, the object into which the rodent should run ought to be black and preferably of soft material such as cloth.

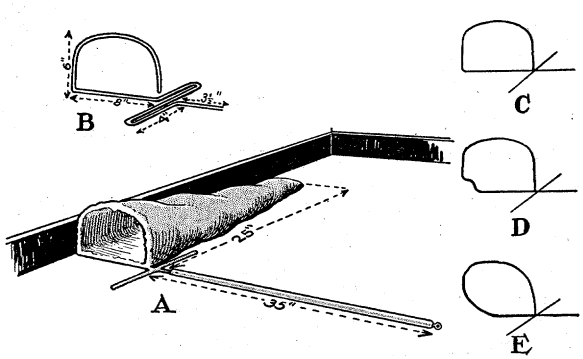

FIG. 1

Except on rare occasions laboratory rodents run along the walls, gauging their distance from the wall with their vibrissae. Therefore the device for catching them should fit snugly to the wall.

With a consideration of these special demands made upon such a device by rodent behavior, I have constructed a net as represented in Fig. 1 A.

A frame of 5/32″ galvanized iron wire is bent as shown in Fig. 1 B to form net opening shape (8″ wide × 6″ high), supporting arms (4″ long) and handle insert (3½″ long). To render the frame solid it is soldered or brazed together where the net-opening shape, supporting arms and handle insert come together.

The net-opening shape will vary in size with the animals for which it is employed, but for rats, mice and guinea pigs the dimensions given here will be satisfactory. The contour will vary with the profile of the laboratory wall where it joins the floor. Hence the net-opening shape may be of forms such as those shown in Fig. 1 C, 1 D and 1 E. The handle is 35″ long and the net bag 25″ long, as represented in Fig. 1 A.

A black cloth bag is sewed to the net-opening frame.

To use the floor-net, it is merely laid on the floor with the end of the net-opening at right angles to the wall and fitting the wall profile. The net-opening is maintained in a solidly upright position by the supporting arms. The animal is driven into the bag and the net-opening is closed by turning it under or over the net bag. If the animal is being driven from the direction opposite to that toward which the net-opening is oriented, merely turn the net inside out and proceed as before.

If wild rats are being housed in Wistar Institute 2-compartment-type cages, a smaller net of similar design but lacking the supporting arms may be held over the intercompartment door in one compartment and the rats readily driven through the door into the net when specimens are wanted for experimental purposes.

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