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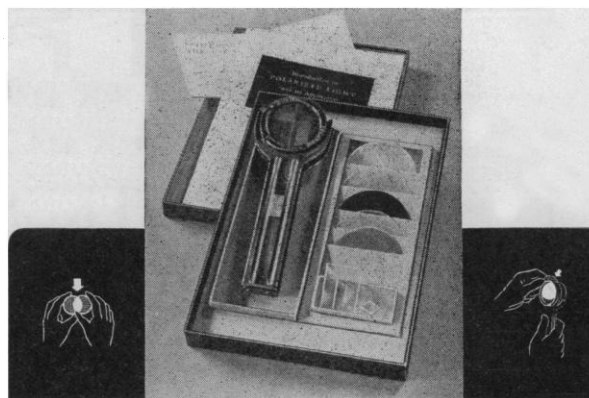
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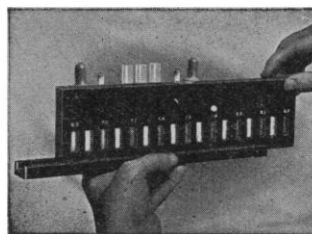
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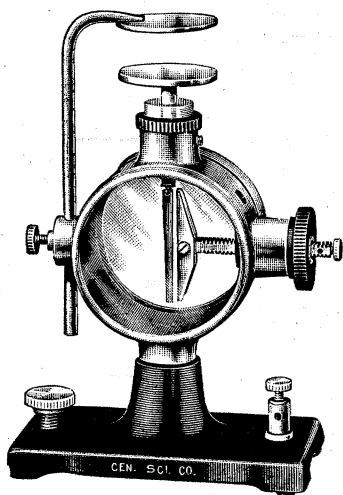


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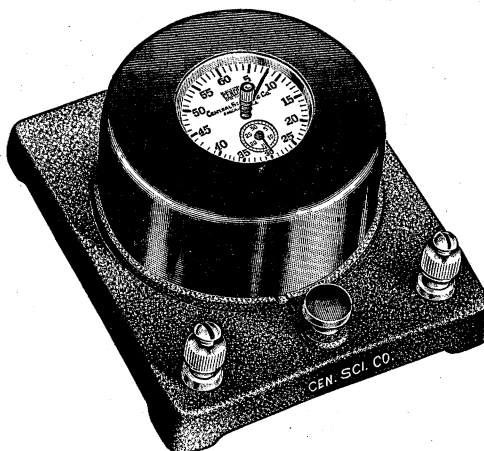
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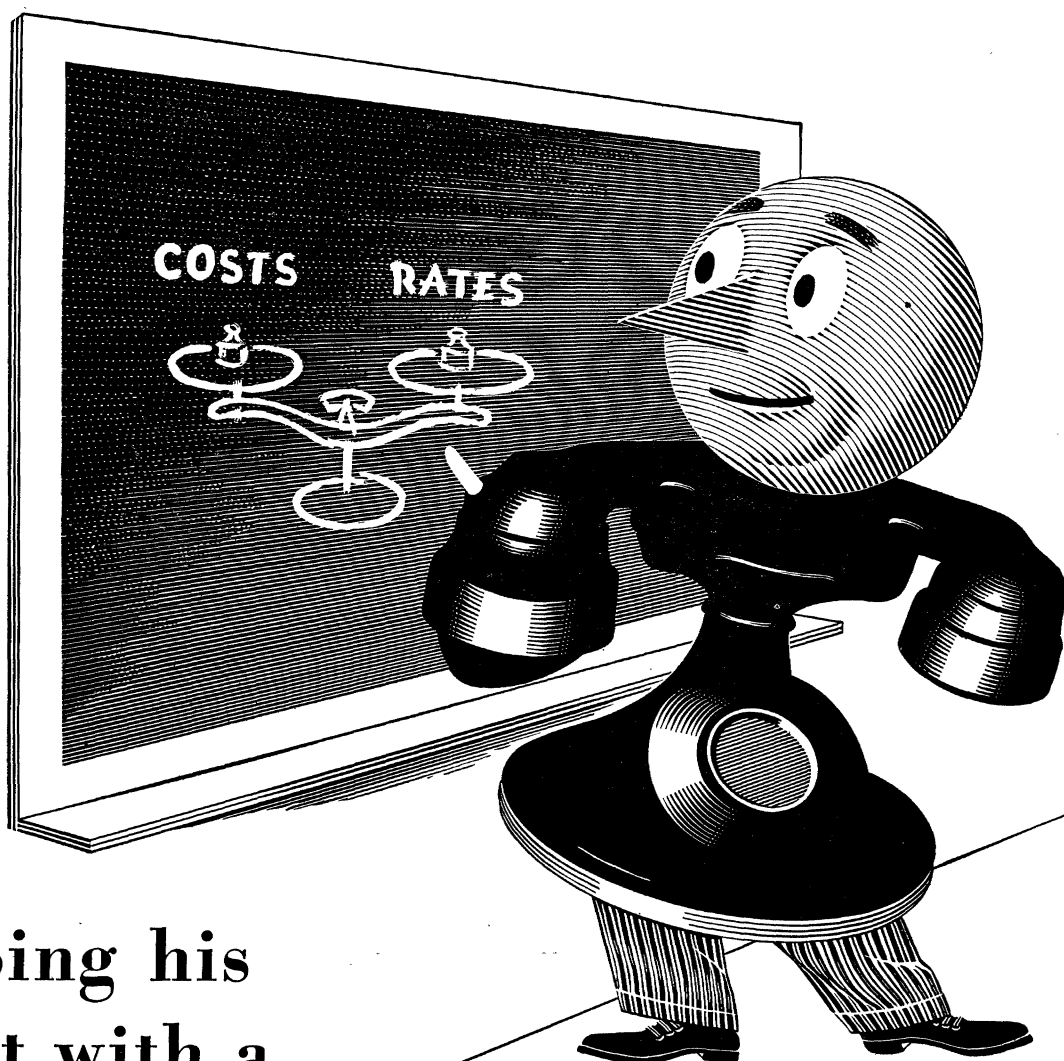
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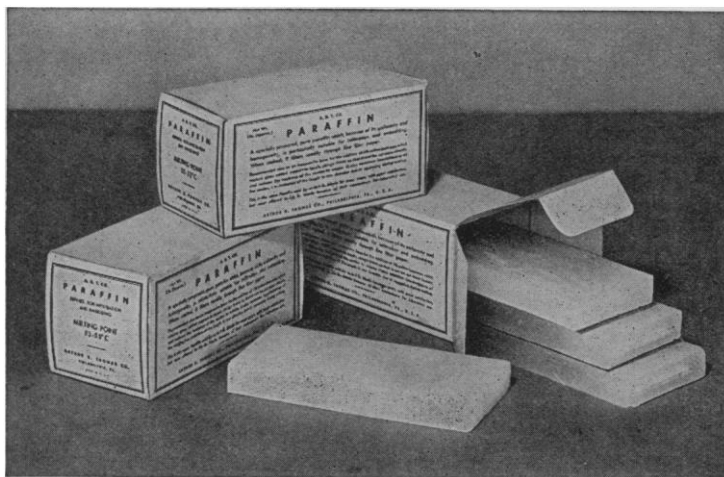
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CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CHEMISTRY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES¹

By Dr. M. L. CROSSLEY

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, CALCO CHEMICAL DIVISION, AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

THE discovery of microorganisms as the causative agents in infectious diseases introduced a new problem of relating the specific characteristics of a disease to the nature and behavior of the particular type of organism responsible for the pathological condition. It seemed reasonable to expect that the infecting agent would change the normal course of certain physical and chemical processes essential to the regular functions of the healthy state of the animal. A knowledge of the mechanism of the cycle of events involved would lead to a rational basis of treating the disease to eliminate the difficulties and reestablish normal conditions. Obviously, it was of prime impor-

tance to learn as much as possible about microorganisms and their pathogenicity before a comprehensive study of their rôle in disease would be instructive and profitable. Just how the infecting agent causes a specific disease, what changes occur, where these changes are initiated, the nature of the resulting products and their influence on the physical and chemical process underlying the normal cellular activity of the animal; are questions which must be answered before chemotherapy can be highly effective in relieving man of the many ills that now reduce his efficiency, limit his usefulness and endanger his life.

All these questions involve difficult problems. The infecting agents are themselves complex organisms, whose metabolic processes are poorly understood. The animal organism is much more complex and its

¹ Address delivered before the general meeting of the American Chemical Society at the Detroit meeting September 9, 1940.

rod F leads to an attachment by which the cell is mounted in the constant temperature bath. I and II are cylindrical openings through which the cell is filled. By sliding the lower block to the left until its slit is in line with tube I, the lower compartment is completely shut off from the upper one. This part of the cell can be filled with solution through tube I, which connects through a one-eighth inch hole drilled through the upper block. The upper compartment is filled with the solvent through tube II. After the cell has been placed in the constant temperature bath, the screw K is loosened slightly, and the lower block, together with the glass plates, is moved slowly to the right until the upper and lower compartments are in alignment. Then the screw K is tightened again and diffusion proceeds.

A very thin layer of stop-cock grease is applied to the steel surfaces before the glass windows are set in place. In order to prevent grease from soiling the glass forming the windows of the upper half of the cell, a quarter-inch wide area to the left of the upper rectangular slot is left free of grease. For greater refraction power, the thickness of the cell has been increased, in comparison with the Lamm cell, from 1 to 1.7 cm. All parts with the exception of the stainless steel blocks, A and A₁, are made of chromium-plated brass.

From an experimental viewpoint the cell has been found to offer the following advantages: 1. Smooth boundary formation and immediate visibility of the boundary at the position of formation. 2. Small volume capacity, *i.e.*, 2 cc of solution and solvent each being sufficient for a diffusion experiment. 3. Greater refractive power due to the increased thickness of the cell; this allows the diffusion rate of protein solutions to be measured in concentrations of 0.2 per cent. and less. 4. Easy dismantling and reassembling for cleaning purposes.

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not distort the backgrounds or cause lack of uniformity in illumination.

If a thicker cell is wanted and rubber tubing of the largest size not adequate, a still broader unit can be made by adding a flat wooden rectangle and another U of tubing to the sandwich. Thus the thick cell will consist of rectangle—glass—tubing—rectangle—tubing—glass—rectangle. Smaller tubing can then be used and the flat rectangle made any thickness needed.

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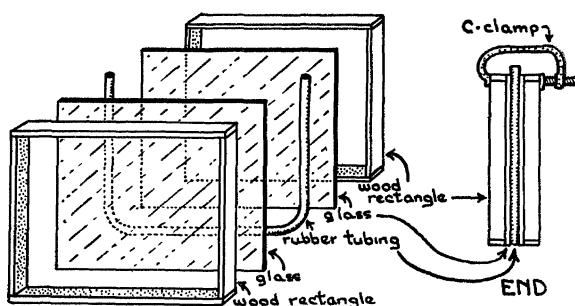


FIG. 1

For study of water insects, salamanders or fish, this type of equipment is much preferable to the commonly used thin museum jars, since it lacks distortion and can be made of any dimensions desired.

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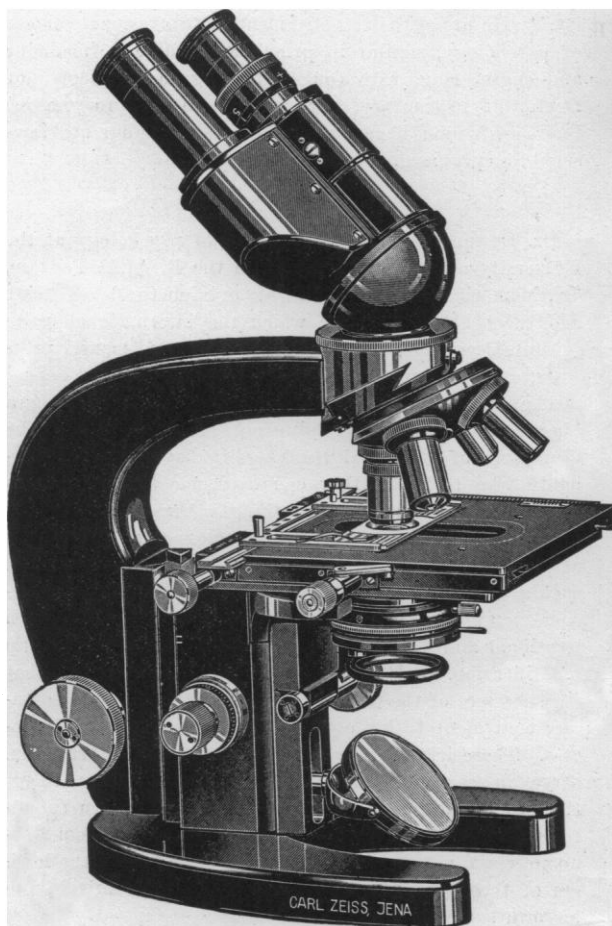
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