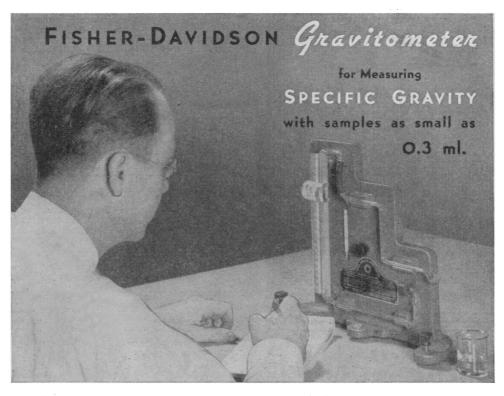
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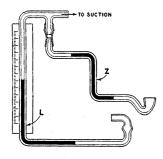
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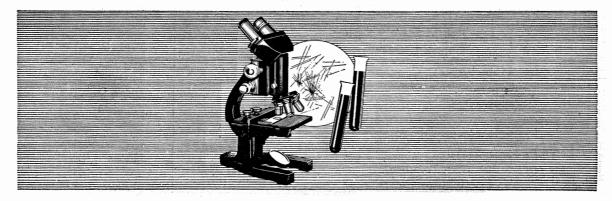
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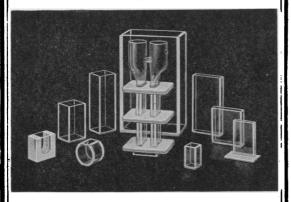
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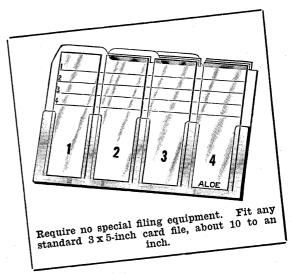
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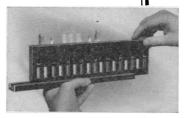
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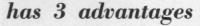
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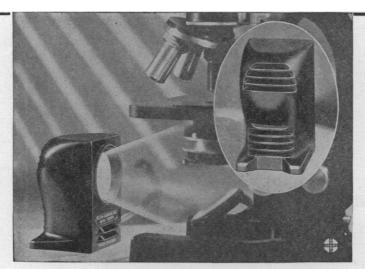
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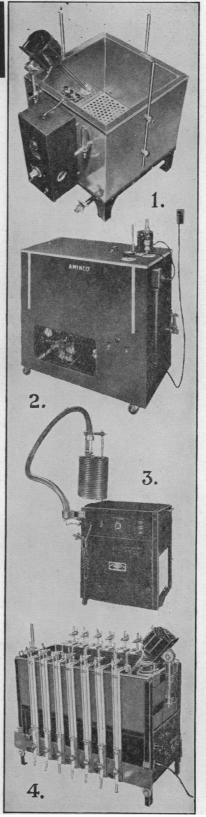
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INDICATIONS AS TO CLIMATIC CHANGES FROM THE TIMBERLINE OF MOUNT WASHINGTON¹

By Dr. ROBERT F. GRIGGS

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WE stand on historic ground. The arctic plants of the Alpine Garden, here isolated on Mount Washington, played a decisive role in establishing Plant Geography as a science; and this science was the crucial point on which turned the acceptance of the doctrine of Evolution. In the years before 1859 progressive naturalists were seeking an answer to the riddle of the Origin of Species. No aspect of this problem was so vexing in those days as the question raised by species with disjunct distribution. Had there been two acts of creation resulting in identical species, one in each of the separate ranges? or was the

1 Address given at the Symposium on Alpine Ecology, Ecological Society of America, Mount Washington, June 26, 1941.

present dispersal the result of immigration from a single original center? It was the answer to this question which finally disposed of the doctrine of special creation in the minds of Darwin and his associates. Feeling the need of additional data on this question, Darwin asked his friend, Asa Gray, to discuss the relationships of our eastern flora. Gray did so under the unpretentious title of "Statistics of the Flora of the Northern States." In a second paper, still antedating the "Origin" he amplified and strengthened the theoretical opinions cautiously expressed in the first.3

² Am. Jour. Sci., Ser. 2, 22: 23, 1856-57. ³ "On the Botany of Japan." Mem. Am. Acad. Arts and Sciences, 6: 443 et seq. (Read December 14, 1858, but a low water permeability in order to prevent a premature exhaustion of the incorporated silver supply, while surfaces mostly dry require certain hygroscopic properties and an appreciable water permeability. Consequently the performance for which a particular surface material is designed represents by necessity a compromise between the rate of sterilization per unit area, the rate of replacement and the total "life time" required for the surface.

The method used for testing the germicidal activity of these surfaces was the following: Samples of the surface material (about 6 cm²) on various bases were placed in humidified containers (for preventing bacterial destruction by drying). The test microorganisms suspended in the desired medium were pipetted onto the surface in volumes of 0.05-0.1 cc. spreading the liquid into a film. Analogously the controls were obtained on neutral surfaces. definite time intervals this film or part of it was removed by a sterile cotton swab, and was immediately introduced into 9 cc of lactose-beef or thioglycollate broth. After incubation at 37° C. for 1 to 5 days the growth was determined. A similar technique was applied for the quantitative determination of cell reduction by titration: the entire film was absorbed by the swab, the latter then soaked for 30 minutes in nutrient broth with frequent shaking before 1 cc was serially diluted and plated in nutrient agar. Colony counts were made after three to five days.

The test microorganisms used so far have been E. coli, Staph. aureus, B. proteus, B. subtilis Cl. pasteurianum, Penicillium, Rhizopus and Sacch. cerevisiae.

Distilled tap and peptone water, nutrient broth, 5 per cent. sucrose and dextrose solutions, cider and milk have been used as suspending media.

The germicidal action obtainable with various surface materials according to extended tests with the above methods are briefly this:

The rate of sterilization varies with the composition of the surface, the highest rate measured sterilizes $E.\ coli$ at 10^8 cells/cc in less than one minute. Materials requiring rates of more than 5 minutes for $E.\ coli$ at at least 10^5 cells/cc were discarded. The bacterial concentration does not influence in general the rate of sterilization.

For a given surface this rate does not vary appreciably with different types of organisms (except for spores). Mold suspensions containing high concentrations of spores were readily sterilized in all suspending media except nutrient broth and milk. This was demonstrated by exposing heavy mold suspensions in eider and sugar-peptone solutions for 1 to 5 minutes to surfaces applied within standard bottle

caps, before applying them to 12-ounce bottles containing sterile eider or broth. After sealing, the nutrient was kept in permanent contact with the cap. Subsequent incubation (30 to 60 days) did not produce growth in any bottle, while control bottles with untreated caps showed heavy growth. For bacterial spores (B. subtilis, 10 days old, washed and heated to 100° C. for 5 minutes) reduction up to 97 per cent. has been obtained after 15 to 30 minutes exposure.

In general the rate of disinfection depends upon the concentration of protein-like matter in the suspending medium. In this respect milk is most severe, and a surface which destroys *E. coli* in water in about 2 minutes requires 15 to 30 minutes for the sterilization of non-sporulating bacteria in milk.

Endurance tests for various surface materials were made on a special testing machine, which dipped each sample every fifth minute for about 30 seconds into H_2O . At arbitrary intervals the above test was performed and it was found that the activity remained practically unimpaired for up to 30,000 infections over a period of 2 months. The final failure coincided in general with the destruction of the plastic surface by mechanical wear.

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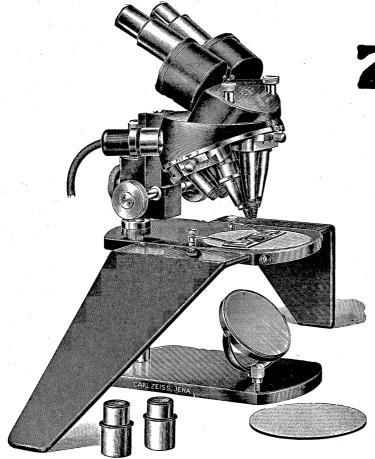
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