or he is continually being asked to make such identifications. If systematists were well organized and of ill-will, they could well bring much ecological and some physiological work to a near standstill by balking at these requests. Suppose the shoe were on the other foot. What would the physiologist say to a request from a taxonomist which went something like this: "Under seperate cover I am sending you some specimens of *Exus yus,* the salinity tolerance of which I would like to have ascertained at your convenience"? Or, an ecologist, to: "Please provide an account of the position of these specimens in the Eltonian pyramid"?

The problem of how to compensate a systematist for the service of identifying species in a group that has taken him years to master has recently troubled curators at the U. S. National Museum. It has begun to be apparent that it is unfair to burden an obliging specialist with such work, and that many of them now have more than they can handle. The alarming decrease in taxonomists is in part to blame for this situation, which further aggravates the shortage of taxonomists in a vicious circle. However, how can one estimate what the fair fee for naming material should be? Should it be on a per diem basis, or so much per specimen, or by permitting the specialist to sell the types? And who should pay these fees? The individual researcher, or his institution? Or could payment by arranged on the basis of release from academic or investigational duties by the institution that employs the systematist?[1]

Obviously, we need more systematists than we have, and expressions from bystanders such as Smith are all to the good. They emphasize the need for more enlightened employment of taxonomists, for greater salary budgets for museums, especially our hopelessly understaffed National Museum, and for more enthusiastic acceptance of budding systematists as Ph.D. candidates in our graduate schools. Further, they emphasize the need for really useful monographs of particular groups, which can be achieved only if systematists are allowed to pursue their work without the interruption of extraneous duties. (Were we full-time practitioners of our specialties we would not, of course, consider the requests of physiologists and ecologists as extraneous to our work.) Perhaps it might also be well to consider the endowment of posts specifically for monographers, whose sole duty it would be to produce monographs, with adequate provision for printing their work. But that is another story.

JOEL W. HEDGPETH
ROBERT J. MENZIES
CADET H. HAND
MARTIN D. BURKENROAD

8602 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California

[1] The possibility of establishing a closed union or guild of taxonomists, with set fees for identification services (with a special charge for naming new species after the collector), may be worth careful consideration. The writers would welcome suggestions.

Survival of Microfilariae of *Dirofilaria immitis* in Rats and Mice

DURING an investigation dealing with canine filariasis, measured quantities of blood containing known concentrations of the microfilariae of *D. immitis* were injected subcutaneously and intraperitoneally into rats and mice. In both series viable microfilariae were found in the peripheral blood at least three weeks following injection. Although Fulleborn (in Kolle and Wasserman. *Handbuch Pathologisch. Mikroorganism.*, 6, 1044 [1929]) performed one similar experiment, he did not report the findings in detail. In addition to determining the longevity of these larval forms in an unnatural host, the present experiments raise the possibility of utilizing infected rodents for screening filaricidal agents. Further information will be reported in a subsequent publication.

PHILLIP H. MANN
ITALO FRATTA

Department of Animal Care
College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University

Device for Transporting Kymograph Papers

CARRYING long kymograph papers between the smoking apparatus and the kymograph is a perennial problem in physiology and pharmacology laboratories. The apparatus for smoking and shellacking the papers is usually at some distance from the laboratory, and the common practice requires two people to slip the paper off the smoking apparatus and to walk carefully in lock step, maintaining the paper taut between their upraised hands. The return trip is even more hazardous in view of the value of the records on the kymograph paper.

Fig. 1 shows a simple device that has been used in this laboratory with complete satisfaction for the past three years. The dimensions are not critical and should be selected to fit the particular needs of a given laboratory. Basically, the device consists of two wooden bars *A* and *B*, approximately $\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1''$, which slide through two brass guides *C* and *D*. Guide *D* is provided with a wing-nut thumbscrew for clamping the bars in a given position of extension. On one end is

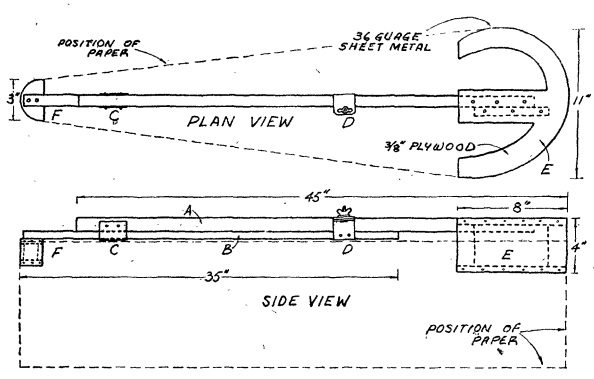

FIG. 1.