Over this face may be poured a thin layer of the partially polymerized methyl methacrylate, which will solidify on the already formed solid without appreciable demarkation. This work is being continued.

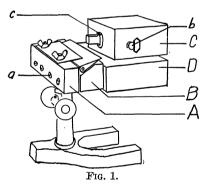
JAMES H. HIBBEN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## A PARAFFIN BLOCK TRIMMER<sup>1</sup>

THE description of a paraffin block trimmer is offered because of its usefulness, inexpensiveness and simplicity of construction. An old discarded Bausch and Lomb dissecting microscope stand, with lens arm and glass stage removed, and a regular microtome blade were utilized in constructing the trimmer. microtome blade can be inserted and removed by merely tightening and loosening two wing nuts.

A hard tough wood was used in the trimmer. following procedure is suggested for constructing it. Cut out a piece 21" (21" plus width of saw used)  $\times 1\frac{5}{8}'' \times 6''$ . If several are to be made increase the length accordingly. Drill holes for the four wood screws (a) on the  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " side,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from one edge. These screws clamp block A and B to the rack. Rip the block so as to obtain block A, 3" thick, and block B, 13" thick. Cut the groove for the toothed part of the rack only in the middle of block A. Make a V-shaped groove for the triangular-shaped rack in block B. On the opposite side from the V-shaped groove cut out an area  $\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ . Cut the inclined plane, on which the microtome blade rests, at 30° with the horizontal



plane, beginning the cut at the corner. The finished block B should measure about 29/32" on the side that clamps to A and 1 7/16" on the opposite side. Finished block A measures 3"×1 5/16". Block C measures  $1\frac{5}{8}" \times 3\frac{1}{4}" \times 3\frac{1}{2}"$ . A  $\frac{1}{4}"$  stove bolt (b), as a setscrew, holds the object block tight in the block. Block D measures  $1\frac{3}{8}" \times 3\frac{1}{2}" \times 6"$ . Cut out an area  $\frac{1}{4}" \times 1\frac{1}{2}"$ to coincide with the same size opening in block B. These two combined openings  $(\frac{1}{2}" \times 1\frac{1}{2}")$ trimmed-off paraffin to fall below.

This blade holder was constructed for use with a <sup>1</sup> Contribution No. 183, Department of Zoology.

Spencer No. 942 blade. If a smaller blade is used the dimensions should be changed so that when block C is pushed up against block B, in the process of trimming the paraffin block, there will be about \( \frac{1}{8}'' \) clearance between block C and the cutting edge of the microtome blade. This obviously is for protecting the cutting

The microtome blade is held in place by a piece of sheet metal 14"×4" fastened to block A by means of two stove bolts with wing nuts.

The trimming of the paraffin block is accomplished in the following manner: Block C, with the object block (c) held securely in a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole drilled for that purpose, is pushed up repeatedly against block B. The height of the microtome blade is regulated by turning the pinion. It is suggested that the cutting edges at each end of the blade, which can not be used for sectioning, be used for trimming the block.

GEO. E. CAUTHEN

KANSAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

MANHATTAN

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Anales del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales. xliv + 439. 124 figures. University of Buenos Aires. BABCOCK, ERNEST B. and G. LEDYARD STEBBINS, JR. T. Genus Youngia. Pp. 106. 31 figures. 5 plates.

negie Institution of Washington.
CLEMENTS, GUY R. and LEVI T. WILSON. Mathematics and Mechanics. Pp. vii + 266.

\$2.50. Hill.

COLLINS, HENRY B. Archeology of St. Lawrence Island, Pp. xl + 431. 26 figures. Smithsonian In-Alaska.stitution.

DEXTER, SMITH O., Editor. Concord River; Selections from the Journals of William Brewster. Pp. vi + 258. Illustrated by Frank W. Benson. Harvard University Press. \$3.50.

DITMARS, RAYMOND L. and WILLIAM BRIDGES. Wild Animal World. Pp. x + 301. Illustrated. Appleton-Century. \$3.00. DUKES, H. H.

The Physiology of Domestic Animals. **Pp.** xiv + 695. 167 figures. Comstock. \$6.00.

Francis, Carl C. Fundamentals of Anatomy. Pp. 320. 176 figures. Mosby. \$2.75.

HARRISSON, TOM. trated. Knopf. Savage Civilization. Pp. 461. Illus-\$4.00.

Everyday Science. Pp. xiv + 305 + xii. HASLETT, A. W. Knopf. \$2.75.

HOOPER, DAVID. Useful Plants and Drugs of Iran and

Iraq. Pp. 241. Field Museum. \$1.50. LYNDE, C. J. Science Experiences with Home Equipment. Pp. xiii + 226. Illustrated. International Textbook Co. \$1.25.

A List of Missouri Fungi. Pp. MANEVAL, WILLIS E. University of Missouri. \$1.25.

RECHINGER, K. H., Jr. The North American Species of Field Museum.

Rumex. 25 figures. Figures. Seashore, Carl E., Editor. Objective Analysis of Musi-Pp. 379. University Press, Iowa cal Performance.

South African Journal of Science; Report of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, 1936. Pp. lxii + 1144. Illustrated. The Association, 30s. Johannesburg.