



FIG. 1. Bellows recorder.

Fig. 1 is a mechanical drawing of the bellows. Recently we have adopted latex for our balloon material. With this material one can make the balloon any desired shape or size. It is especially desirable to make the balloon smaller in diameter where it passes under the block. Such a shape reduced in size is shown at B in the illustration. At A is a detail drawing of the countersunk depression in the base plate with the brass tube in position. The base plate of the recorder measures 4 cm  $\times$  5 cm and is 5 mm thick. It can be made in any shop where tools and a mechanic are available and can be made any desired size. One point indicated in the drawing which might be advantageously changed is the shoulder on the threaded tube which may be made square or, if left round, may be fitted with a tongue which would sink into a corresponding groove in the brass plate. This is to prevent the threaded tube from turning when the wing-nut is tightened, thereby skewing the rubber condom somewhat.

This apparatus has been used in several laboratories, and I have been asked many times to publish a description of it. Dr. Charles Gruber, of Jefferson Medical College, Dr. G. H. Miller, of Iowa City Medical School, and Dr. Fredrick F. Yonkman, of Boston University School of Medicine, have used the bellows and published their results. The bellows was demonstrated at the meeting of the American Society for Experimental Pharmacology and Therapeutics held in Rochester, N. Y., in 1927.

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### "PROPS" FOR COVER GLASSES

A SIMPLE method for "propping up" cover glasses in preparing total mounts of chick embryos, small insects and other specimens requiring raised cover glasses makes use of small bone "curtain rings" which are available in  $\frac{1}{2}$ ",  $\frac{5}{8}$ ",  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and  $\frac{7}{8}$ " diameters, corresponding to standard sizes in round cover glasses.

The bone ring is ground with sandpaper or emery wheel on top and bottom to produce flat adhering surfaces for slide and cover slip. The ground ring is then treated in the same manner as the specimen to be mounted; *i.e.*, washed in distilled water, run through

the alcohols, xylol, and impregnated with thin balsam. This procedure is important, especially dehydration, in order that no air or moisture remains in the bony structure to cause "bubbles" or fogging of the balsam after mounting. The rings may be stored in the balsam for later use.

When ready for use, the rings are placed on the slide with sufficient balsam adhering to make a good seal, and then allowed to dry for 24 to 48 hours in a dust-proof cabinet or box. In mounting the specimen, the ring is filled with thick balsam, care being taken to avoid bubbles on the inner and lower periphery of the ring. After placing the specimen in the balsam, more is added until the ring is filled and "heaped" but not overflowing. The cover slip is placed directly over the ring without being pressed down, as the light tension of the cover glass will permit any small bubbles formed to work out and permit some shrinkage of the balsam in drying.

After drying for several days, the ring is "painted" with heavy balsam to form a smooth, even surface finish, and to prevent bubbles of air creeping in as the balsam continues to shrink in drying. An occasional similar application of balsam will make these mounts long-lasting and uniformly neat laboratory slides.

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