tures have been destroyed or thoroughly distorted in the interim.

Constant reference of structures in three dimensions to the strictly two-dimensional cellulose acetate sheet makes it much easier to represent these structures than would be believed possible. The drawings show great improvement.

By this method much laboratory time is saved which has hitherto been spent with ruler, measuring these same features of the animal, and in calculating magnifications before drawing the first rough outline. It reduces erasure to a minimum since the squares which show through the drawing paper can be lifted out when not in use. The ruled cellulose acetate sheet in being constantly over the specimen as it is drawn, encourages interest in the accuracy which is so essential in a science laboratory.

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A SIMPLE ARTERY CLIP

WHILE many manufactured artery clips or serrefines are entirely satisfactory, there are none on the market which are inexpensive. This factor becomes important especially in class use or in operations where a great number are needed. An easily made clip was therefore designed which costs only a fraction of a cent.

A glance at the accompanying diagrams will show

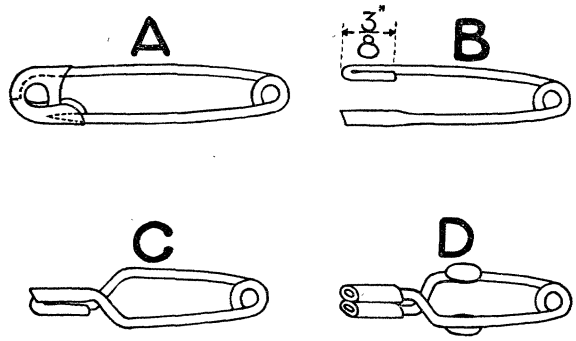

FIG. 1.

the ease with which the clip is made. Sturdy No. 3 safety pins are procured. First, the head is pried off and the head arm is straightened, then bent over (B). The sharp end of the other arm is clipped off and flattened. Next a double bend is put in each arm as shown in (C). The arms may be sprung apart to give the jaws the desired closing power. It is also advisable to bend the head arm counter-clockwise and the sharp arm clockwise to prevent over-riding of the jaws. A quarter-inch copper washer is soldered on each arm and rubber spaghetti tubing is slipped over the jaws completing the clip.

In this laboratory comparison of these clips with ready-made types has not only proved them to be as efficient, but also to be in many cases less damaging to the arterial wall.

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ISOBUTYL METHACRYLATE AS A MOUNTING MEDIUM FOR HISTOLOGICAL PREPARATIONS

RECENTLY O'Brien and Hance[1] advocated isobutyl methacrylate as a substitute for Canada balsam in mounting histological preparations. Since these authors have stressed several advantages of this new plastic over balsam it seems advisable to point out that this substitute has proved unsatisfactory with certain histological techniques used in this laboratory.

Celloidin sections, measuring about 30×50 mm and 25 micra thick, through the entire hemisphere of a macaque's brain were stained with thionine for nerve cells (Nissl) or according to the Weil method for myelinated nerve fibers. Such sections mounted without a cover glass (as were the preparations of O'Brien and Hance) in xylene solutions of various concentrations of isobutyl methacrylate polymer (du Pont), warped on hardening and the surface of the medium roughened. Mounting such sections in this medium under a cover glass caused cracks and fissures in the preparations. Moreover, it was found that whereas the stain in the Nissl preparations was unaffected, the bright blue of the myelin sheaths in the Weil preparations turned to a dull gray in this medium and some of the finer detail was lost.

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[1] Harold C. O'Brien and Robert T. Hance, SCIENCE, 91: 412, 1940.

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