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REMARKS ON PROFESSIONS IN MEDICINE¹

By DR. ALFRED E. COHN

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THIS invitation of yours to speak here to-night I regard as no ordinary honor. Once before you offered me this same opportunity. Ten years ago seems so far behind us as to have occurred almost in another life time. Some of you must remember that through a long hour you were patient. And now you ask me again. You give me the chance of feeling a deep satisfaction in the belief that I was tried and was not found wanting. We both take a great risk. I take mine willingly. For there are things as to which I believe I shall feel the better for having shared my thoughts. Nor can I think of men and women with whom I prefer to share them better than with you. We have, as it were, through long personal friendships, established common points of view which, on

such occasions as this, come to some sort of systematic expression.

But I can not begin without recalling that I was brought here originally by Jack Wyckoff, whom I have always cherished as one of the most gifted of my friends. His gifts were not the gifts of tinsel—he did not shine by any of the arts that compel the immediate and spontaneous admiration of other men. Quite otherwise. His virtues came to be impressed upon us by their sheer weight—massive things which, because they were exercised in right directions, came to be understood to be expressions of deep intelligence and actuated by profound human sympathy. Wyckoff understood, I think, that the profession of medicine is so inextricably embedded in the social forces of our, indeed of any, time that it is a distortion of the facts to think of its position as something isolated. To

¹ Read before the Alpha Omega Alpha (Honorary Fraternity), Delta Chapter of New York, January 24, 1940.

Adult sandflies of either sex live as long in the plaster-plug tubes as in the standard breeding-pots, and we believe that the average yield of eggs is greater.

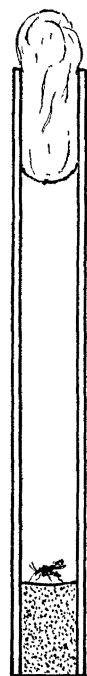


FIG. 1.

The larvae, however, get along better and with less attention in the earthen pots. Our routine rearing technique is therefore a combination of the two methods. The tubes may be autoclaved and used a number of times, but in practice it is more satisfactory to use only fresh plaster.

In addition to serving as breeding-vessels for *Phlebotomus*, the plaster-plug tubes have proved useful in a number of other ways. They permit any desired degree of moisture and thus provide an excellent container for the transportation and temporary storage of living insects. They are in routine use for catching sandflies and other insects in the verruga zone and transporting them alive to the laboratory in Lima. They may prove useful in shipping live insects considerable distances. With these tubes we have secured, through the cooperation of a physician whom we instructed in their use, living sandflies and eggs from a region several days' journey from Lima.

Tubes of this type can doubtless be adapted to the rearing of various other insects. Though we have not had occasion to try them out extensively, we have used them successfully in rearing several species of fleas.

MARSHALL HERTIG

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE HIGIENE
Y SALUD PÚBLICA, LIMA, PERU

THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS TO RATS

It is often necessary to give experimental animals quantitative doses by mouth, and frequently the material given is distasteful. Even those with much experience in giving a stomach tube to rats occasionally kill a valuable animal and at best the process is time consuming and unpleasant. A substitute technique has been found to be successful. Dissolve or suspend the material in a sucrose solution and measure it from a needleless tuberculin syringe into a rat's mouth. All rats like sugar and will take anything that can be made to taste sweet. Bile salts and other bitter material is consumed better in suspension than solution. It is recommended that two or three practice periods precede the experimental feeding. If the rat lies on its back with head slightly raised, there is no danger of spilling if the stream from the syringe is adjusted to the rate at which the rat laps. Most rats will try to turn over until this position is conditioned to the pleasure of drinking the sugar water.

This method has been used on several hundred rats, including many suffering from complete anorexia due to adrenalectomy or severe diseased conditions. Vitamins, ethynil testosterone and other hormones, sulfapyridine and many other substances have been given. The method has failed only in the administration of such irritants as CCl_4 , where the trauma to the tissues of the mouth outweighs the appeal to the "sweet tooth."

DOROTHY NELSON

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KEEP BOTTLE-TOPS FREE FROM DUST

LABORATORY bottles invariably gather dust. After pouring from them fluid remains on the lip and around the stopper, to dry out, effloresce or otherwise create and attract dust. Cleaning them daily is a time-consuming labor, with danger of contamination from the usual wet cleaning-cloth. Such dirt and contamination may affect laboratory procedures adversely, particularly in the case of preparations for microscopic study.

A simple and effective means of keeping bottle-tops clean is to cover each with an inverted paper drinking-cup. These cups may be had in various sizes to fit different types of bottles; they are inexpensive and may be discarded when soiled.

H. F. PIERCE

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NEW YORK CITY

BOOKS RECEIVED

- American Philosophical Society, Proceedings. Vol. 82, No. 5: Centenary Celebration; The Wilkes Exploring Expedition of the U. S. Navy, 1838-1842 and Symposium on American Polar Exploration, February, 1940.* Pp. 519-947 + v. Illustrated. The Society, Philadelphia.
- Annales de L'Acfas. Vol. 6, 1940.* Pp. 284. Association Canadienne-Française pour L'Avancement des Sciences, Montreal.
- BOURNE, GEOFFREY. *Nutrition and the War.* Pp. xii + 126. Cambridge University Press, Macmillan. \$1.00.
- LEJAY, R. P. PIERRE. *Étude Gravimétrique des Iles Philippines.* Pp. 129. 6 figures. Imprimerie de T'ou-Sè-Wè, Shanghai.
- LOWY, ALEXANDER and BENJAMIN HARROW. *An Introduction to Organic Chemistry.* Fifth edition. Pp. xv + 400. Illustrated. Wiley. \$3.00.
- PANUM, PETER L. *Observations made during the Epidemic of Measles on the Faroe Islands in the Year 1846.* Translated from the Danish by ADA S. HATCHER. Pp. xxxvii + 111. Delta Omega Society and American Public Health Association, New York. \$2.50.
- PIERCE, WILLIS C. and EDWARD L. HAENISCH. *Quantitative Analysis.* Second edition. Pp. xv + 462. 35 figures. Wiley. \$3.00.
- RICHARDSON, LEON B. and ANDREW J. SCARLETT. *Laboratory Manual of General College Chemistry.* Pp. 243. Illustrated. Holt. \$1.40.
- Travaux de L'Association de Géodésie. Tome 9: Rapport Général sur les Bases, Mesurées de 1912 à 1932.* Pp. 395. L'Association, Paris.

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Published June 14th

Second Edition: 312 pages; 6 by 9; \$2.75

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