may be filled with plaster, wax or fine lead shot. Arrange a permanent black wooden mounting and adjust two screws to run through the plaster body sagitally so as to hold the finished specimen in the position desired. See Fig. B.

Set artificial eyes (beads or glass pin heads) in their depressions on the head of the plaster body. Wash the skin in water. Dry it with paper towels. Slip the skin over the plaster body and sew up the one longitudinal and two cross-slits.

Brad the feet to their proper positions. In life such regions as ears, eyelids and toes are pink, due to the presence of subcutaneous blood vessel distribution. These areas may be tinted lightly with red ink mixed with water to produce the appropriate shade.

Adjust eyelids, nose, ears and feet from time to time until the finished specimen hardens.

Two great advantages of this method aside from its simplicity are, first, that each individual retains its individuality of form and, second, that each specimen may be caused to assume any one of a great variety of possible poses.

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## A MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERA

IN the May 24 issue of SCIENCE[1] Abrahamson described "An Inexpensive Microphotographic Camera." For those interested in making an occasional photomicrograph a very simple method was described and illustrated by Turrell.[2]

The microscope is focused and a cheap vest pocket kodak, fitted with a yellow filter, is placed on the eyepiece, being kept in position by its own weight. Exposure is made with a cable release. If a focusing camera is used the focus should be set for infinity and the lens diaphragm should be wide open. When using a 10× ocular, the image circle does not fill the entire negative area, but it can be enlarged.

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## AUTOMATIC MERCURY VALVE

THIS simple valve arrangement will prevent the forcing or accidental spilling of mercury from an open tube, yet offers negligible resistance to the flow or oscillation of the mercury.

The stainless steel ball "B" and the constriction "A" (ground to a 45° angle) will form a valve that will stop the falling (Fig. 1) or rising (Fig. 2) mercury column "C" at "A."

With a valve (as shown in Fig. 1) located on the citrate side of a mercury manometer such as is used for direct blood pressure recording, it is impossible for excessive pressure to expel the mercury.

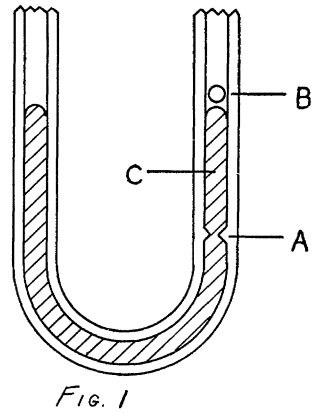


FIG. 1

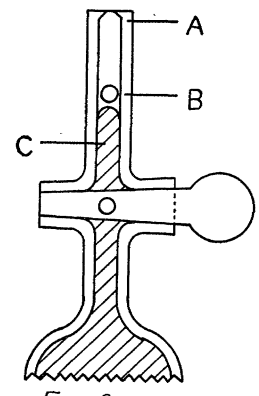


FIG. 2

FIG. 1. Mercury manometer (Pyrex).
FIG. 2. Air sampling tube (Pyrex).

Air sampling tubes equipped as in Fig. 2 will permit rapid positive evacuation without the usual overflow of mercury.

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[1] SCIENCE, 91: 509, 1940.
[2] F. M. Turrell, Trans. Am. Micros. Soc., July, 1933, 267.