

many trees were in bloom. Between Cayey and the pass over the mountains at El Collao (somewhat over 2,000 ft in elevation); practically all flamboyant trees were in full bloom. On the descent to the south coast, again only a few feet above sea level, as on the north coast, the production of foliage and the opening of the flower buds had not begun. Definitely, this was not a reaction to rainfall. After a drought since the first week in December 1950, Río Piedras received much more (8.14 in. for the week ending May 8, 1951) in the last days of April than any other locality of the south coast or in the mountains. Instead, it seems a reaction to elevation and temperature quite the reverse of what is considered normal. Lower temperatures seem to stimulate early blooming instead of causing retardation.

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Filing Lantern Slides

THE task of storing and arranging lantern slides in a manner that permits quick and appropriate selection has long been difficult and irksome. Our very workable but not ideal system (not established elsewhere to the best of our knowledge) may be of interest to others who have similar needs.

At present we have more than 2,500 lantern slides in steel files for the use of various members of the Research Department for presentations before the research staff or extramural groups. In order to permit wide use of slides made for several departments it was deemed advisable to keep them all in one place rather than to permit each person to control his own collection.

Our system requires two units—one for the slides, which are kept in numerical order, and the other for reference cards, which are arranged alphabetically according to the topics dealt with on the individual lantern slides. The right-hand side of each 5" × 8" card is reserved for an inexpensive photograph, which is made from the negative used to produce the slide; this print occupies not more than one half of the card, leaving the left side for the corresponding number, classification, and interpretation of the slide (Fig. 1). Each slide, as soon as it is made, has a number assigned to it, thus eliminating the cumbersome, inflexible procedure of attempting to keep slides filed by topic.

If taken from a publication, the slide includes the name of the author with the complete bibliographic reference, thereby assuring proper accrediting of the source of information, and enhancing the value of the illustration for reference purposes. Information regarding classification of the card is supplied by the person for whom the slide is made, since presumably he is in the best position to supply it.

As many alphabetically arranged cross-reference

L.S. 2345					
AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM					
BLOCKING AGENTS					
PRISCOLINE					
DYSMENORRHEA					
24 PATIENTS TREATED FOR SEVERE DYSMENORRHEA WITH ORAL "PRISCOLINE"					
(Dosage Interval 3-24 Hours)					
	50 Mgm. Dosage (15 Patients)		25 Mgm. Dosage (9 Patients)		
Relief of Pain	No. of Menstrual Days	Per Cent	No. of Menstrual Days	Per Cent	
Complete	18	29	8	26.35	
Good	18	29	8	26.35	
Partial	20	32.2	5	22.7	
None	6	9.7	1	4.5	
Total	62	99.9	22	99.9	
Griffith, M. I. & Little, J. M., South. Med. J.					
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FIG. 1.

cards may be prepared as the subject matter of the individual slides warrants. If one were especially interested in "Blocking Agents" as a lecture topic, for instance, one could thumb through all the cards listed thereunder and, without reading the indexed explanation on the left-hand side of the card in detail, merely glance at the photographs to select desired material. Picking out the particular slides by number is then a simple and rapid operation.

Of further interest is our custom of keeping pertinent information on every lecture given. All this is retained on one 8" × 11" sheet filed in a manila folder ("Speeches") according to the date of the presentation. It names the group before which the lecturer appeared and gives the date, the topic, and a complete annotated list of slides employed.

We have found this system of listing and filing lectures convenient for several reasons; namely: (1) it avoids duplication in presenting material before the same group; (2) it assists in the preparation of lectures for new groups, since considerable scientific information can be adapted by the lecturer to various professional and lay groups according to their level of training and interests; (3) it serves as a handy reference, immediately available in one's desk drawer, for bibliographic purposes either in correspondence or in the preparation of manuscripts and reports.

The success of this plan depends upon the cooperation of the secretary in charge of checking out the file cards, the photographer who checks out the lantern slides, and the individual using the materials. As a rule, the cards and slides are returned within 24 hr or less after use so that they may be available to the next individual. Duplicates are made only of those slides that are in frequent demand, so that there may be no delay in scheduled presentations when emergency requests arise.

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