However, none of these methods is entirely satisfactory when it is necessary to put considerable data upon the slide, such as the cytotologist or cyto-geneticist finds necessary in his work.

For myself, I have, while being concerned with a cyto-genetical study, solved this problem of keeping the sections properly orientated by means of a very simple, but practical, tool which was easily constructed. A small, all-wood penholder was used and the inside of the pen-end was scooped out to a depth of 2-2.5 cm. This cavity was filled with a thick paste of plaster of Paris and a piece of carborundum 15 x 3 mm imbedded in the paste so as to leave about 5 mm protruding beyond the end of the penholder. After the plaster of Paris has formed a rigid matrix one is able to make fine lines, small numbers or letters on his slides.

This device has proven far more satisfactory than any of those methods previously used. Likewise, such a tool is certainly good insurance against loss of valuable sections and data.

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BOOKS RECEIVED


MORI, TAMEMO. Studies on the Geographical Distribution of Freshwater Fishes in Eastern Asia. Pp. 88. Author, Keljo Imperial University, Chosen, Japan.


A SIMPLE CARBORUNDUM PENCIL

One of the problems which so frequently confronts the microtechnician, be he botanist, zoologist or bacteriologist, when staining, is to determine on which side of the slide the sections (or bacteria) are. In attempting to insure getting the correct answer to his question he may use a glass or pottery pencil, he may make a scratch on the slide with a small piece of carborundum, he may use the more expensive slides with one end “frosted” or he may merely trust to luck.