

be negligible. Thus, the effect produced must be ascribed to the action of alpha-particles emitted by the radioactive precipitate in the tissues of flies breathing emanation of radium.

Gersheñson, S. Possible role of the When bobbed-deficiency genetically-inert region of the X- (sc<sup>4</sup> - sc<sup>8</sup>) males are chromosome in equational divisions. crossed with yy females, patroclinous females are found in the offspring with a much higher frequency than usual. It seems, therefore, probable that the genetically-inert region of the X plays a role not only in the conjugation of chromosomes during synapsis, but in the equational divisions as well. In two cases among seven, several patroclinous females were found in the offspring of one bb-def. male. Such a coincidence could hardly have been accidental and probably means that equational non-disjunction of the X's took place several cell-generations before maturation.

#### Technical Notes

Beadle, G. W. Collection of eggs. For the collection of eggs for measures of egg or larval-pupal mortality, small paper spoons containing food have commonly been used. They have the disadvantages of giving a food mass of unequal thickness and usually with a rounded surface. Detection of all the eggs is often difficult. Small nickel boxes made of sheet material about 0.3mm. thick and of the dimensions 15 x 40 x 4mm. with a strip 45 x 10mm. soldered to the bottom so as to project about 30 mm. have been found to be very useful for egg counts and for collecting larvae of known ages. Standard cornmeal agar (containing animal charcoal, if desired, to increase the contrast) is pipetted into these boxes, filling them level full. They can be used in 20 x 100 mm. vials very conveniently. Examinations under a binocular can be made very rapidly. Experiments with different media with and without yeast indicate that yeast is a very important factor in stimulating rapid egg-laying. Standard food "painted" with a rather heavy suspension of yeast gives very satisfactory results. If it is necessary to have the eggs develop into adults, it is easy to slide the food mass out of the box on a cardboard strip 9 x 70 mm. It can then be transferred with eggs or larvae to a standard culture bottle containing food. With care, no eggs or larvae need be lost in the transfer.

Christie, A. L. M. Culture conditions for *D. subobscura*. *D. subobscura* is being worked with in this laboratory and at first considerable difficulties were experienced with the culture conditions. The flies were reared in a 20-22 C incubator and on the usual *D. melanogaster* food medium. Of 200 single pair matings set up, 92 were sterile. The fertile matings gave on an average about 166 flies during a counting period of 19 days. The development takes at this temperature between 19 and 21 days.