Turoczi, L. J. Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey. A motorized brush for small cleaning needs.

Cleaning of glassware consumes considerable time in Drosophila laboratories. In order to facilitate the washing of shell vials and other small items, we have designed a motorized brush. The unit can be constructed easily and inexpensively and provides an efficient and rapid means of maintaining a clean glassware supply.

The apparatus (Fig. 1) is composed of a small motor connected by a drive shaft to a brush. The drive shaft consists of a flexible cable, measuring 36 inches long and having an adjustable chuck fitting. The shaft and motor are attached to a wooden base, with the brush overhanging the edge of the base.

Experience has shown that the best procedure for washing dirty vials is to soak them in a cleansing solution, such as "Haemo-Sol" (Meinecke Co., Baltimore, Md.), prior to brushing. The brush is allowed to rotate for a few seconds inside vials partially filled with the solution. Motor speed can be regulated either through a variable foot pedal or electric rheostat. Test-tube brushes of various sizes may be employed to clean vials of different dimensions. To shield the operator from splashing, a plastic deflector can be mounted on the base to partially cover the brush.

In our laboratory, the motorized brush finds an additional application because of considerable use of "dual purpose plastic stoppers" in studies in aging (Sondhi, K. C., 1965. Life Sciences, 4:57-61). These stoppers contain the Drosophila food medium and are fitted to shell vials. Since Drosophila populations are usually provided with fresh food medium daily, the stoppers require cleaning at frequent intervals for re-use. The cleaning procedure involved is readily handled with the motorized brush.