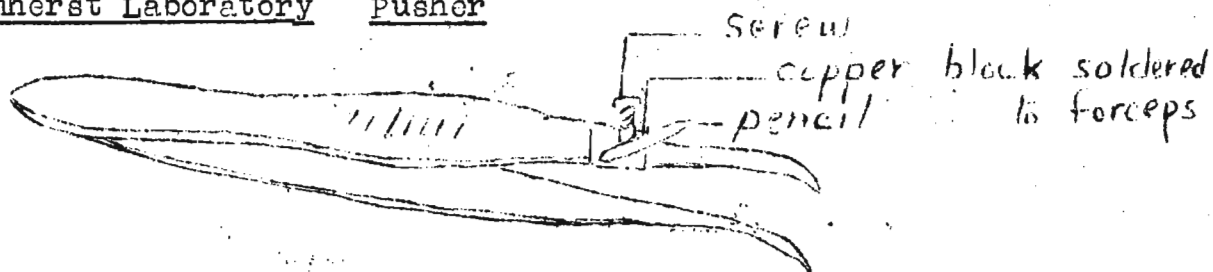


April 1936

Equipment - Utensils.

6:57

Amherst Laboratory      Pusher



Forceps with pencil attached to speed up orienting fly and recording.

Mickey, George H.      Pusher

An excellent fly pusher may be constructed out of a metal needle holder (80 mm long, with screw chuck for holding needles; 20 cents each, no. 2978 Schaar and Company, Chicago), a steel spear point needle (40 cents doz., no. 3951 Central Scientific Company, Chicago), a piece of rubber tubing 1/8 in. inside diameter, and a no. 3 or no. 4 red sable point brush (obtainable at any paint store for 20-25 cents each). Red sable is little more expensive than camel's hair but is much more satisfactory in that it wears longer and has more "life" or spring. In place of the wooden handle of the brush one should substitute the metal needle holder, the back-end of which is held in place by any good metal cement. Then the piece of rubber tubing should be slipped over the handle to make a larger, firmer grip. The angle of the needle's spear point can be filed down to suit individual preference. When the needle is inserted, the pusher is ready for use.

Shipman, Emmet E.      Pushers.

In handling individual flies the writer has found a pair of regular dental forceps highly satisfactory. They are about 15 cm. long, the points being set at an angle are about 17 mm. long. The spring tension may be reduced by grinding on the inner part of the springs near the base. The writer has found them more comfortable for long use and the points stay in good alignment. They may be obtained from nearly any store handling dental and medical supplies.

Mickey, George H.      Counting plate.

Until recently at our Austin laboratories the most satisfactory plates on which to count flies has been old glass photographic or lantern slide plates which were out of date. At first they are rather too light in color, causing reflection and glare, but gradually become darker the longer they are exposed. Disadvantages are that the color finally turns too dark, the emulsion wears off through sliding on the table top, and the plates are broken too easily. We have just received some baked enamel plates from the Burdick Enamel Sign Company, 36 South State