

Street, Chicago, which have none of these disadvantages. These new plates, made of 18 Ga. steel 3 x 5 inches in size, either have both sides covered with a medium dark gray baked enamel or have one side white and the other gray. In lots of 24 the price is 75 cents each.

(A plate of opaque glass was found to be a very satisfactory counting plate. It gives a rigid, smooth surface of good optical quality for examining flies. Such a plate can be cut to any size. Opal glass can be procured from various supply houses. - Editors).

Muller, H. J. Fly morgue

In place of the usual method of having a jar of alcohol or other volatile fluid into which the flies to be discarded are dropped through a narrow slit, it is much more convenient to have a broad dish containing a non-volatile oil. The used oil from automobiles affords a conveniently obtained medium. The opening may be protected by a wide-mesh wire grating. The flies do not have to be brushed off in any exact manner, but may be merely jarred off by knocking the porcelain plate against the screen with one motion of one hand. Renewal is seldom necessary and there are no disturbing odors. This method was used independently in Texas and in the USSR.

Mickey, George H. Trays
for vials

A very satisfactory container which has not been reported to DIS but

which has been in use for handling flat bottomed shell vials, is a round tray 11 in. across and 3 in. deep, made of 20 Ga. (or lighter) galvanized sheet iron. Such a tray can be washed and sterilized repeatedly and will last indefinitely. Since it holds approximately 100 vials, no more convenient method for handling and filling vials without actually counting them could be desired. Moreover, this container lends itself admirably to a method suggested by Altenberg of etherizing cultures "en masse". For this, the vials are inverted in one tray, covered with a towel half-saturated in ether, and then covered with another tray. There is very little danger of over-etherization and the flies do not stick in the food since the vials are inverted. These "tins", as they are called, were constructed by a local tinner at a cost of 50 cents each.

Bridges, C. B. Light

Light for the binocular should fall on the flies

and white-glass plate as a broad-base converging beam whose axis is about 45° from the vertical, which angle gives least highlights and disturbing reflections. A frosted 100 W tungsten globe focused through a 1-liter globular water flask, placed very close to the flies, is excellent.

About 15 diameters seems to be optimum magnification for routine binocular examination of *Drosophila*, since higher magnifications have so little depth of focus that special or continual refocussing is necessary.