Miscellaneous methods

Parker, D.R. Method of carrying stocks. The early method of carrying stocks in this institution was to keep them in bottles, merely shaking them from the old one into the new one at each change, with occasional etherization and examination of them. Last year, however, we adopted a new method which seems to be more efficient. The stocks are now carried in vials, keeping one old vial and mating three new ones at each change. The four are fastened together by means of a rubber band to which is attached the tag label. The flies are etherized by means of the mass method of Altenburg.

The advantages of this system are: (1) The flies are examined at each change, and (2) by making 3 new vials the chances of loss by contamination are greatly reduced. It is possible by this method to practically rid all of the stocks of mites, provided there are no adverse conditions of temperature.

This method takes a bit more time than the older one, but it will perhaps repay the loss with better stocks. (Copied from DIS-4: 65).

Muller, H.J. Labelling of stock cultures. In place of the usual practice of Drosophila laboratories of pasting a label on each stock culture and writing the name of the stock anew at each transfer, I have for many years found it much quicker and less subject to error, if the designation of the stock is written once for all in ink or India ink on both sides of a cardboard tag which is affixed through its string to a rubber band that passes around the neck of the culture vessel. This tag is transferred to the new vessel when the flies are transferred, and it is best to have a separate tag for each culture vessel. (Copied from DIS-3: 52).

Hoover, Margaret E. Maintenance of stocks. Drosophila stock bottles are kept at Cold Spring Harbor in galvanized tin trays filled with soap solution to prevent spreading of mites, and are placed on wooden shelves constructed for this purpose. These shelves measure 36 x 11-1/4 inches. Four bottles can be placed in a row the width of the shelf and about fourteen bottles lengthwise without any crowding. Our cabinets have ten shelves each from the floor to the ceiling so that one cabinet will hold 140 cultures.

Following H.J. Muller's suggestion (DIS-3, 1935) stocks are labeled by using small celluloid or heavy cardboard tags on which the labels are written; an elastic band is looped through a hole punched in each tag and slipped over the neck of the bottle. With the transfer of cultures, the tags are dipped in carbon titrachloride to prevent the spread of mites and transferred to a new bottle. Heading each row of four bottles on