

Technical Notes

M. Demerec Flexible chromo- For preparing chromosome maps
some maps on which single items can

readily be changed and order or position of different items shifted. We are using "Kardex wall panels for tubes", with tubes 6 inches long and 3/16 inches wide. A 20 inch panel holds 90 tubes which is enough for the map of melanogaster X-chromosome. Since the space for each item is 6 inches long it gives room enough for: locus, symbol, full name and R. By inserting differently colored transparent markers in tubes we designate loci which are carried in our stocks, which have been lost, etc. The material may be ordered from Remington Rand Inc, 205 East 42 Street, New York. The price is \$3.00 per panel.

B. H. Glass Control of In combatting a severe infection
mold and mites. of mold in *Drosophila* cultures,
it has been found helpful to hold

individuals for two or three days in vials of food containing 0.2% formaldehyde, added when the food is prepared. Flies can live for several weeks in such vials, inoculated in the usual manner with yeast; but larvae do not develop after hatching; and mold growth is inhibited. These vials are also very useful for holding individuals to be mated at some future time. Before transferring to fresh food, the flies are given a bath in a watch-glass of 70% alcohol for 2 to 3 minutes; then dried on filter-paper. Flies will stand a considerable immersion in alcohol with no permanent ill effects. They may be handled readily with brush and forceps. The alcohol bath treatment is also effective in freeing flies from mites. Larvae are especially easily cleared in this way, the mites coming off at once; whereupon the larvae may be touched on filter-paper, and transferred at once to the food, using a long-handled needle, to which they gently adhere.

M. Demerec Control of As a preventive measure against
mites. the spread of mites we are keep-
ing stock-cultures (and also all

other culture bottles which are used during a long period) standing in a weak solution of creosote. For this purpose shallow (2 inches or 5 cm high) galvanized iron trays are used. These are made to order to fit our shelves (usually 12 x 36 x 2 inches). In case any of the cultures is infected with mites creosote solution prevents their spread to adjacent cultures and keeps the infection under control. Some of our trays have been in use for over five years without any sign of wear. The initial cost for trays, therefore, is spread over a long period. Mites can also be controlled effectively by avoiding accumulation of old culture bottles and by wiping frequently, shelves and tables, with carbon tetrachloride.