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### WATERGLASS FOR MARKING SLIDES.

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As long as serial sections have been studied some method of marking the slides while in process of staining has been necessary. Very many devices have been proposed all of which have, so far as the writer knows, decided disadvantages. Most of them are either too cumbersome or the marks come off too easily. The following method which seems to meet all objections has not so far as I have found been previously suggested.

The medium is simply waterglass, an aqueous solution of sodium- or potassium-silicate, thinned if necessary till it will flow well from a pen. The most convenient time for marking the slides is when they are first taken from the box, before they are cleaned. An ordinary steel pen of the stub or ball-pointed sort is used. After the slides are marked they must be heated, either before or after they dry, preferably by holding them for a few seconds in the blue cone of a bunsen flame till the waterglass decomposes giving off strong jets of sodium light, and at the same time effervescing so as to leave behind a rough sandy surface. This is then rubbed down by a single stroke against the edge of the table or any hard object and leaves a ground glass surface which, if the fixing has been properly done, is absolutely permanent and will not be affected by any reagent which does not attack the slide itself.

If desired some such dye as carmine may be stirred into the solution to make the marks more conspicuous. A whole series of colored inks could probably be made with a little experimentation but care must be exercised in choosing colors which are chemically inert because of the ease with which the silicate is precipitated.

This process takes no more time than sticking a paper label to a slide and writing the data upon it in the usual way. For serial slides where large numbers are made of the same material,

the number is frequently all the designation that is needed so that the paper label may be dispensed with. One may if he cares to, mark all the slides he makes with serial numbers and his initials keeping track of them and providing a ready means of referring to any slide irrespective of the paper label.

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HIBERNACULA OF UTRICULARIA.—Last fall (late Oct. or Nov.) I brought home several winter buds of *Utricularia* sp. and put them into my aquarium. They were floating on the water all winter, repeatedly in ice, unchanged. With the first warm days and sun in March, they grew out rapidly and in a few days had developed branches several inches long, with numerous "utricles."

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**ERRATA**—In April number, page 128, last line, read April instead of March.

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