

For the benefit of those who were not present at that meeting, I will again describe the process of making :

The material used is beeswax, with a small quantity of resin added to increase the hardness and to raise the melting point. This mixture of beeswax and resin is kept heated almost to the boiling point ; if the temperature falls much lower you will not be able to form a smooth cell. Place your slip on the turntable and set in rapid motion, then with a moderately thick brush apply a drop of the hot wax to the slip, which, being cold, cools the wax rapidly, rendering the cell visible at once ; apply the wax drop by drop until the cell is a little deeper than is required for your material ; allow it to cool thoroughly, and before removing from the turntable, take a sharp knife and trim it down to the proper thickness. You may also taper the outside of the cell towards the centre and the inside towards the circumference, leaving the base of your cell wider than the top, but always have your cell wide enough at the top, so that your cover glass will not come quite to the edge, leaving a small margin for the cement ; a shallow depression may also be turned in the top to receive the cover glass. This cell answers for such mounting media as Canada balsam, or any glycerine jelly : but for media containing oil, it will be necessary to varnish the cell inside with some material that will not be acted upon by the mounting medium. These cells answer for almost any kind of material, if treated in the manner described, but when the mounting medium is of a very thin or watery nature, it is advisable to slightly heat the slip after you have your cell made and before turning it down, in order to make a perfect contact between the wax and glass.

For mounting transparent aquatic insects, take a cell of proper depth, transfer your insect to it with a small quantity of water, and add a drop of Pyroligneous acid ; as soon as the acid reaches the insect it dies at once ; place the cover glass in position, and after carefully absorbing any water that may have run over, cement down the cover.

Semi-transparent insects should be placed in a solution of Carbolic acid and Turpentine (one part of the former to three of the latter) and allowed to remain until clear. Ordinary crystallized Carbolic acid may be used in preparing this clearing solution, but I think the best results are obtained by using the C. P. acid ; the crystals of pure Carbolic acid are needle-shaped and colourless, while the ordinary commercial acid comes in white flaky crystals. The Turpentine will also require some attention. for, as ordinarily sold, it is hardly suitable for this purpose.