

Hermetically sealed tin cans are also very good when it is possible to get them. Care must be taken, however, not to allow the specimen to come in contact with the tin especially if there is any formalin in your preserving fluid.

#### TAGS OR LABELS.

Equal in importance to the specimen itself is the reference number which must be attached to each one, which gives the clue to the clinical history and notes upon the case. This tagging or blocking should be done at the autopsy or operation and the label should always be attached to the specimen itself and not to the wrapper.\*

Owing to the various fluids the specimen has to go through in course of preparation metal tags which rust and disfigure the specimen, celluloid which dissolves in alcohol, and pencil writing on cardboard, which becomes obliterated and torn off, should all be avoided. The following devices may be substituted:

(a) Consecutive numbers stamped by means of a Bates automatic numbering machine on a length of white tape one inch wide, which is then boiled in paraffin and rolled on a stick, the number next in order being cut off and attached to the specimen as required,<sup>†</sup> or (b) Strips of parchment perforated with a cheque stamping machine, is also most excellent.

When impossible to get a numbering or a stamping machine waterproof ink on strips of cotton may be used.

I wish to thank Dr. M. E. Abbott for much assistance rendered.

\* Compare *British Circular Memorandum*, page 15 of this Bulletin.

† *Judah—Intern. Assoc. Med. Museums*, Bulletin No. IV, p. 45.