

#### DRIED SPECIMENS.

Methods of the preparation of *bone specimens* are very similar to those used for osteological natural history material. After removing all superfluous flesh, being careful of the capsular ligaments, soak in several changes of water for one or two days to remove as much blood as possible, taking care that the specimen does not macerate or any small portions of bone drop out. Then place in a saturated solution of arsenic (arsenic trioxide) from ten to fifteen minutes, and allow it to dry thoroughly in the air; pack in paper or any kind of cloth so that the specimen will not be knocked around in transit.

Arsenical soap may also be used when desired in place of the arsenic solution; apply it with a paint brush.

This method will allow of easy maceration afterwards and also preserve the capsular ligaments when so desired.\*

The sprinkling of an antiseptic powder over specimens is not satisfactory as they quite frequently go bad and become very disagreeable, besides many of the powders used for this work contain corrosive sublimate which is dangerous to those working later with the material. Dry arsenic is not so readily absorbed by the specimen as when in a saturated solution.

In making up a saturated solution of arsenic the arsenic should be placed in cold or luke warm water and then boiled for fifteen or twenty minutes. By adding one-twelfth of alcohol to this solution it will keep indefinitely and make an excellent preservative for wet pathological specimens where it is not necessary to preserve their colour. It is known as Sappey's Fluid.

#### PACKING OF SPECIMENS.

Barrels can be employed for transportation; loosen the upper hoops at one end, remove the end; divide the interior into compartments by means of slats somewhat as an egg crate, giving each specimen a compartment to itself, and in this way build up the contents from the bottom. Wrap each specimen in wet absorbent cotton. When the barrel is full replace the end, and the metal hoops, drive them home tight, and fill with fluid through the bung.

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\* *Utah-Bull. Inter. Assoc. Med. Mus.*, No. V, June 1, 1915, p. 90.