

alcohol, and the trouble with corks in general, and advocated sealing in a glass tube half filled with alcohol, or the alcohol could be entirely omitted after the insect had been killed in it, and the specimen would be free and easily studied. Specimens illustrating the method were exhibited. He seals his tubes with a blow pipe, making a sharp flame, and in this way a vial even three-quarters full of alcohol could be closed readily.

He also spoke of

A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE FOR CORK.

Cork for lining insect boxes is expensive, and he has found that soft pine, cut across the grain, formed a good and cheap substitute

Mr. Osborn said Dr. Packard had also advised sealing vials containing larvæ. Where no alcohol was added it was of course necessary that the specimens be perfectly hardened. The wood to be substituted for cork must be very soft and even.

Mr. Smith said it would be very difficult to get material so free from resin that a paper covering would not be stained.

Mr. Mann said strawboard and a frame covered with paper had been suggested as substitutes for cork.

Mr. Webster said corrugated paper was very convenient for some purposes.

Mr. Claypole said all forms of strawboard or paper failed for want of elasticity in the material. Cork and wood are elastic and clasp the material firmly.

Mr. Smith said this was the objection to turf, which was otherwise a very satisfactory material.

Mr. Mann uses no lining of any kind in his boxes. He thought the pita-wood, formerly imported by him about as good as anything, and thought it could be brought in quite cheaply.

Mr. Smith said that even pita had its hard streaks, and that while generally excellent, it was not sufficiently uniform. On a small scale, for study boxes, corn pith was not bad.

Mr. Fletcher said the lower part of the stems of *Typha latifolia* is still better; but the compressed cork now on the market is sufficiently cheap, and is excellent.

Mr. Ashmead said that in the Berlin Museum they often preserved different stages of an insect in small tubes inclosed within a larger tube.