

balsam. With fine forceps lift the dissections from the clearing fluid and arrange them in the drop in approximately the order you wish to preserve. If necessary apply a little more balsam, then put on a clean cover-glass, pressing it lightly into place. Should too little balsam have been used more may be run in under the edge of the cover by capillary attraction, while any surplus should be left on the slide until dry. Care should be taken to select parts of about the same thickness for each mount, since thick objects like mandibles sometimes hold the cover so far off from smaller parts that these latter will twist and turn before the balsam hardens enough to hold them in place. If it is desired to support the cover in any place, to keep it from rocking out of level, small pieces of glass may be employed, since they are not conspicuous among the dissections. Any disarrangement of the objects may be corrected by inserting a very fine pin under the cover-glass and moving them into the required positions. When everything is satisfactorily placed, set the slide away in some safe spot, where it will lie flat until the balsam hardens. This hardening may be hastened by gentle heat, such as is afforded by a radiator, but the balsam is likely to become discoloured if allowed to get too warm. The process of hardening may not be completed before several weeks, but when it is satisfactorily finished the surplus may be scraped off with a sharp knife and the slide carefully washed with alcohol applied on a rag. If this leaves a misty scum, breathe on the glass and polish with a soft cloth, taking care not to tear off the cover-glass and the mount. In final storage the slides should always lie flat, never set them on edge. The manner of labelling may be left to personal taste, but a convenient method is to paste a square of gummed paper on one end of the slide, writing thereon the necessary data.

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DR. WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER, who, during the past summer, accepted the professorship of Economic Entomology in Harvard University, has recently been appointed honorary Curator of social insects in the American Museum of Natural History, where, until the present year, he had been Curator of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology since 1902. At the close of his term of service at the Museum, he presented to the institution his entire collection of Formicidæ—the result of many years of earnest effort and study—a gift of such value as to make the Museum the possessor of the finest collection of its kind in America, and one of the three largest in the world.—*Science*.