

really abundantly repay one for the trifling trouble and expense involved in its construction. It consists first of a gallon glass jar, heavily charged with cyanide of potassium. To the top of this is fitted a funnel, the spreading mouth of which opens at right angles to the axis of the poisoned jar. The lower end of the funnel is four or five inches below the mouth of the jar and has an opening three inches in diameter, the funnel mouth being twelve or thirteen inches across. Opposite the mouth of the funnel, and on the opposite side of the jar, is soldered to the funnel a sheet of tin so bent as to thoroughly enclose a lamp. The lamp is supported by a piece of tin hinged to the outer edge of this projection. The lamp being placed in position, the tin support is made to rest upon the projecting part of the jar below its neck. Immediately in front of the light is placed a sheet of mica. The whole contrivance is placed within a tight wooden box, and a tin flap is also arranged above the lamp chimney as a precaution against an undesired conflagration.

The moth attracted by the light, flies into the mouth of the funnel, is stopped by the mica, and after fluttering a very short time, is so far overcome by the fumes of the potassium as to fall within the poisoned jar, whence it cannot emerge. A projecting lip of an inch or so in height is soldered to the lower edge of the mouth of the funnel in such a way as to catch any insect that falls outside the mouth of the jar. It thus is most likely to return to the light. I have taken with this contrivance hundreds of *Noctuidæ* and *Coleoptera*, among the former many things—especially among the *Tineidæ*—entirely new to my cabinet.

#### A CHEAP ENTOMOLOGICAL CABINET.

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I have recently been looking over the back volumes of the *Entomologist*, and have found them, as I do the later numbers, very interesting and instructive reading. Among other valuable items, I have noticed suggestions regarding the construction of cheap cases for holding specimens, and as the question of expense is always an important one especially to young collectors, I will, if you can spare me space, briefly describe the style of cabinet I am now using, and which has been adopted by one of my friends.

Among the substitutes for cork mentioned by Packard (in his *Guide to the Study of Insects*) are thin frames covered on each side with paper and fitted into the bottom of drawers in a cabinet. Now I have gone a step farther, and discarding the drawers entirely, have adopted the frames and adapted them to a cabinet without drawers. This cabinet can be made of any size and be divided by upright partitions to suit the taste of the owner, and the frames can run in grooves made in the sides and partitions before it is put together, or between movable strips tacked or screwed in afterward at suitable distances, say two inches. The one I now use (a small one made as an experiment) is three feet two inches wide inside, with two partitions, so that there are three spaces each one foot in width. It is fifteen inches deep and two feet high. Placing the frames two inches apart gives me twelve in each section, or thirty-six in all, and as each has a surface of twelve by fifteen inches, I have an aggregate expanse of thirty-six square feet. The advantages claimed for this cabinet are its lesser weight and expense. It is easily handled and can stand pretty rough usage without fear of damaging specimens, as the pins are firmly held, and the frames, running in grooves or between strips, cannot stir when the door shuts close against them. It does away with the expense of drawers, the cork alone for which (thirty-six feet at 18 cents per foot) would be \$6.48. The frames constructed of thin stuff (say quarter-inch) cost at the most five cents each, and suitable stiff cartridge paper is very cheap. If the frames are made slightly smaller than those mentioned one sheet will cover both sides of two frames. The paper is put on when damp, but should not be too wet. The frames can be easily re-papered if needful, and if the sections are made of equal width, they will all be interchangeable, which will be found a great convenience.

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