

of the body, and no clogging of the vessels need be feared. The fluid may usually be observed running in the cannula, and, of course, falling in the reservoir. Finally, there are characteristic changes in the body. The abdomen becomes greatly distended, the subcutaneous tissue swollen, the eyes protrude, and there is usually more or less frothing at the nose. Leakage, either in the area of the incision or at the nose, is sometimes a sign of too much pressure. In the former case the leakage is frequently behind the cannula, and may be stopped by artery forceps. In the latter case there is no recourse but to confine the fluid to the nasal cavity by tying the nostrils.

After the embalming process the rubber tube is disconnected from the cannula, the latter being left carefully in place. The animal is then set aside for twenty-four hours in an upright position. After this it is ready for injection.

The injection mass may be made by mixing ordinary starch and water to the consistence of thin cream; then adding a finely-ground coloring material, such as vermilion or a very small quantity of carmine. There is some advantage in using a 5% formalin instead of water alone in making up this mass, the arteries having afterwards a brighter appearance, which is doubtless due partly to better preservation and partly to the fixing of the starch in the vessels. The mass must be thoroughly strained before use, in order to avoid the presence in it of particles which are too large to go through the cannula. The injection is made with a syringe, the latter being provided with a rubber tube of the same kind as that used in the embalming process. The mass is sent in by applying a gentle, even pressure, and it is sometimes advantageous to allow the injection to run backward and forward in the tube, each time applying a little more pressure. When the vessels have been filled in this way, the tube is clamped. By drawing on one cord of the ligature the knot is loosened sufficiently to withdraw the cannula, and by keeping a finger pressed on the end of the vessel, the knot may then be drawn tight without loss of injection.

It sometimes happens, despite ordinary precautions, that the cannula becomes clogged either with settled starch or with coagulated blood. In this case it may be easily removed, cleaned, and replaced. The same cannula should always be used.

Material prepared according to the directions given above will keep indefinitely, provided, however, that precautions are taken to avoid contamination from the surface. These are especially necessary in view of the thick coating of hairs. It is a good plan, therefore, to sponge the animal with a preserving fluid which will penetrate the coat immediately, or if many specimens are being prepared, to immerse the whole animal for a moment. A suitable fluid for this purpose is formalin-alcohol, made by adding 2% of formalin to a mixture of equal parts of ordinary spirit and water. The alcohol ensures immediate penetration and assists the formalin in preservation. The fluid should be squeezed out of the coat as much as possible. The presence of a considerable quantity is not harmful, unless, after the dissection has begun, the fluid should gain access to the tissues and destroy the effect of the glycerin of the embalming fluid.