

schools where less than fifteen pupils desired a subject be taught. While the test is being given, the visiting teachers and members of the mathematics department meet for informal discussion of the examinations and problems relating to the teaching of high school mathematics. The college teachers have obtained new insight into the difficulties facing the high school teacher and into the kind of preparation to expect from the incoming freshmen.

A school is allowed a team of three pupils, but a limited number of individual entries are welcomed. A small loving cup is presented to the team with the highest gross score, and individual medals are awarded to the four highest ranking contestants. The four medals are identical.

The contest for pupils and the conference for their mathematics teachers have been a means of calling attention to the importance of mathematics, interest in its study has been aroused in at least some of the schools around us, and our college mathematics majors have had an opportunity to become acquainted with high school pupils and teachers in the area where they may expect to be employed. The Austin Peay mathematics department and the Galois Club would like to see similar contests held in other areas of the state.

CELLS FOR MOUNTING THICK SPECIMENS¹

W. ST. AMAND²

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

A number of methods have been suggested for making whole mounts of insects, small embryos, etc. The thickness of this type of specimen makes the use of a support of some kind necessary to keep the coverglass level and to prevent crushing of the material. Glass rings manufactured for this purpose are available from biological supply houses but they are prohibitively expensive. Curtain rings of bone and celluloid, as well as rings of gum rubber, have been used as inexpensive substitutes (Beaton, 1936; Cordts, 1938; Stapp and Cumley, 1936). Specimens of *Drosophila* have been mounted in depression slides (Patterson, 1932) but these too are expensive, particularly if slides with flat-bottomed depressions are used. Slides with concave depressions, although less costly, permit viewing from one side only and, since top and bottom viewing of thick specimens is often necessary or desirable, these are not completely satisfactory. Perhaps the coverglass props most often employed are broken pieces of glass. Unfortunately, the mounting medium usually oozes around the edges of the supporting pieces and results in a messy-looking preparation. The time-honored method of building up balsam rings to serve as coverglass supports is a tedious one.

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¹Contribution No. 81, Department of Zoology and Entomology, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

²AEC Predoctoral Fellow.