

## A TANK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANATOMICAL MATERIAL

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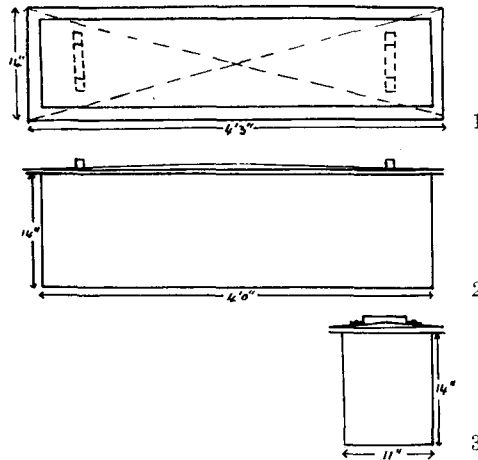
THREE FIGURES

The adequate preservation of gross anatomical material requires some form of receptacle or tank, and if large quantities of material or dissections either of human or mammalian anatomy are to be carefully kept in good condition, it is necessary that the receptacles be so cheap as to be readily multiplied with the growing needs of the department. In Western Reserve University we have, besides the dissecting-room, a museum, material for which accumulates faster than it can be mounted for exhibition, under present circumstances. In addition, arrangements with the various hospitals and with the city administration result in the acquisition of much fetal material and the bodies of all animals from the Zoölogical Gardens. For these reasons it has been necessary to provide such accommodations as shall be at once cheap and serviceable.

The form of tank described below has fulfilled these requirements, and is therefore now being used in other laboratories. Hence it seemed advisable to make a record of it as one more laboratory furnishing suitable for anatomical departments.

The tank, the plans for the manufacture of which are also submitted with this communication, is made of galvanized iron, number 20 thickness. It is watertight, and provided with a flange running round its upper margin, the flange being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad. The lid is simply a sheet of the same metal slightly scored diagonally from corner to corner so that a somewhat concave surface is presented to the contents and the flow of the condensed fluid which accumulates on the under surface of the lid directed to the corners. In order to seal the tank hermetically, the flange is thickly smeared with vaseline.

The thickness of the iron is found to be sufficient to prevent undue bending of the flange, but of course the result of any accident to flange or lid can readily be repaired with the hammer. The vaseline method of sealing has proved equally efficient with the method whereby the lid is made to fit into a channel filled with glycerine round the top sides of the tank, and is much more convenient than any other scheme of tank lid. The inner surfaces of tank and lid are coated with asphaltum, which is renewed from time to time. The tank is cheap, tight, portable, does not get out of order, and is very easily opened, closed or cleaned.



Figs. 1 to 3. Plan of tank measuring  $48 \times 11 \times 14$  inches; scale one-half inch to one foot. Figure 1 shows the plan of the tank, with the lid in dotted lines. Figures 2 and 3 represent side and end elevations.

It has proved much easier to use and more convenient than the usual form of tank made of slate, stoneware, wood or lead-lined wood. It can always be made locally, and the stock can be increased at very short notice. It can be made of any size up to one which will hold the larger Mammalia. But it is well to have a plug in the floor of the bigger tanks so that they may be emptied of fluid and cleaned more readily. The idea originated in a somewhat similar tank in use for the preparation of color specimens by the Kaiserling method in the Pathological Laboratories of the University of Manchester.

It is convenient for storing purposes to have standard sizes, and the dimensions which have been found most useful by Mr. Leonhart, Prosector to the Department, are the following:

	DIMENSIONS IN INCHES		
	Length	Breadth	Depth
Kaiserling preparation.....	24	11	8
Brain storage.....	48	11	8
Limbs or pelves.....	48	11	14
Torsos.....	48	22	14

It is obvious that any size may be made; only those which are most generally useful have been detailed. If it is desired to suspend the brains in fluid from rods placed across the tank, plaster slabs 1 inch in thickness may be made to fit the length of the tank. Grooves may then be gouged out of the upper margin to accommodate the rods. Finally, the plaster slabs may be rendered hard by boiling them in oil, one of the brain tanks being used temporarily for this purpose.