Making satisfactory mounts of lice in Canada balsam is a very simple process, though it is certainly more tedious than making useless ones. The lice to be mounted are placed in a 10% solution of caustic potash (potassium hydroxide) in a solid watch-glass, and then either a very fine needle is used to make an incision in the abdominal margin or the same needle is thrust into the dorsal or ventral intersegmental membrane; as it is very desirable that the gut, if filled with food, should be poired, I prefer the latter method, directing the needle so that it pierces the integument and gut in one operation. The incision, however made, is essential because without it there is much deformation of the specimen during the process of dehydration, and it must not be deferred to a later stage because the integument (no longer supported by the soft parts) will then give before the needle and be most difficult to pierce. The specimens are then left in the solution of caustic potash until the soft body-contents are completely liquefied by the action of the solution. This process may be hastened by boiling the solution in a water-bath, but I prefer to carry it out in the cold because it is then easier to time; in the latter case the lice are usually ready in about twenty-four hours. The next stage is the removal of the liquefied contents of the abdomen, which is done by gentle pressure with a very blunt needle under a dissecting microscope; if the contents do not leave the abdomen readily the specimens must be returned to the potash, as the use of force will result in serious damage, but their stay in the solution must not be too prolonged as over-long treatment with potash results in the chitin also being dissolved. After the body-contents have been removed, the specimens are dehydrated by passage through different concentrations of alcohol (70%, 90% and absolute alcohol are sufficient) into xylool or oil of cloves, and are then mounted in balsam in the ordinary way. In all these manipulations of lice I find a needle scalpel with the point broken off an invaluable aid, with which the specimens can be transferred from one solution to another without the slightest damage; the needle is first placed under the louse and then jerked sharply upwards, which causes the louse to rise in the liquid (than which its specific gravity is very little more) when the needle is rapidly inserted under the louse and lifted out of the liquid. The lice have, however, a specific gravity considerably greater than that of xylool, and it is partly for this reason that I prefer oil of cloves. The actual mounting should be done in rather thin balsam, and in this case no trouble with air-bubbles is likely to arise.

I place a drop of very thin balsam on the slide and arrange the specimens nearly in it with a fine needle applied gently to their sides, then allow the balsam to dry until it becomes viscous, remove the thickened rim of partly-dried balsam with a pledget of cotton-wool wrapped tightly round the tip of a dissecting needle and dipped in xylool, add another very small drop of very thin balsam, and a ply the cover-slip (without any pressure).

* An alternative and equally satisfactory method and one which saves labour is as follows:-

- Remove from the caustic potash and place in glacial acetic acid (30 min.), transfer to a mixture of \( \frac{1}{4} \) acetic acid and \( \frac{1}{4} \) clove oil (30 min.) transfer to clove oil (30 min.), mount in Canada balsam.