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Petrified Wood Compound of Oxides of Iron

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Empty quart motor oil cans have been found useful for several purposes. They serve as water baths, ice containers, individual trash cans, burner chimneys (with both ends out), and even as pneumatic troughs. Cans of other sizes also find ready uses in the laboratory.

In this connection it seems well to mention the use of ordinary carpet tacks for cleaning deposits of carbon from inside distilling flasks, of a copper wool scouring pad for more accessible deposits, and of pipe-stem cleaners for small tubes. Old razor blades also find uses in removing labels, paint, or other matter from outer surfaces of glass or porcelain.

One other adaptation seems worthy of being passed on. Through the cooperation of the supply house it was found possible to replace the tapered shields of an inexpensive hand centrifuge with round-bottomed brass shields that take ordinary 5-inch test tubes. (The rubber cushions were replaced by thinner ones.) Thus a separation by centrifuge may be made directly in the test tube.

Having described several simple devices that can be made from common materials with moderate skill and little cost, the author hopes that other workers may find them useful.

PETRIFIED WOOD COMPOUND OF OXIDES OF IRON¹

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Specimens of petrified wood found in the Tertiary Eocene Wilcox sand exposed in bluffs over Red River at Shreveport prove to be composed of oxides of iron (assumed to be hematite and limonite) with no appreciable quantity of organic matter or of silica. Ordinary silicified wood (with occasional specimens partly lignitized) is common in the region, as are small bodies of hematite. Stem and leaf imprints, usually fragmentary, in iron-bearing stones are fairly common. Irregular beds of lignite underlie much of the region.

¹ Abstract of a paper presented at the 1939 meeting and published in condensed form in the *Journal of Geology*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 2, February--March, 1940, pp. 212, 213.