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AN INCUBATOR OPENING TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING.

BY L. S. ROSS.

Having had the experience more than once of being routed out of bed after ten o'clock on winter nights to make journeys to the laboratory with diphtheria tubes to put into the incubator for early morning microscopical examination, and also of many an after-supper trip to see if any belated tubes had been dropped into the box prepared for them, it occurred to me that an incubator might be arranged so a tube in its containing case could be dropped into it from the outside of the building. I had a box so arranged, why not an incubator? Upon searching, an old incubator was found, one that is opened by lifting off the entire top as a lid. The top was replaced with a wooden top, made in two parts and covered with heavy felt. A hole was cut in one part of the

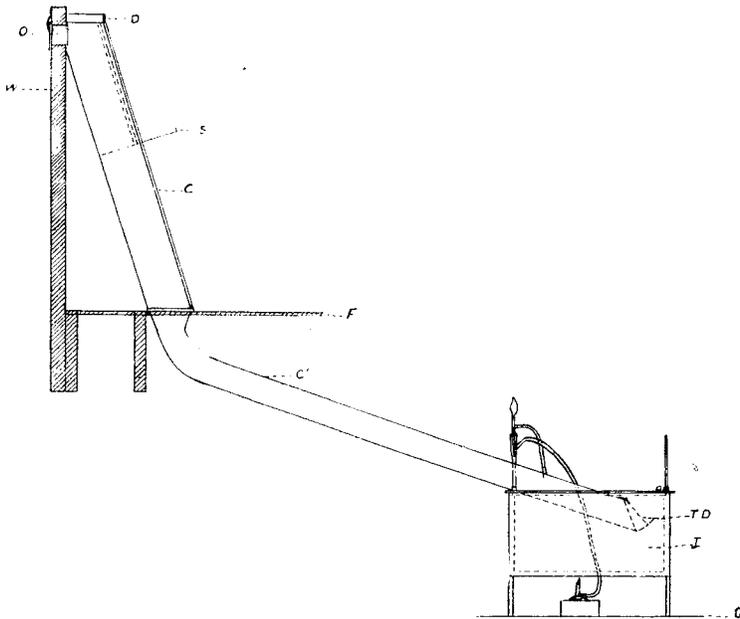


FIG. 2. Plan of incubator and chute.

W.—Wall of building.
 O.—Opening into chute.
 D.—Door of chute.
 S.—Galvanized iron slide.
 F.—Floor.

C. C.—Chute.
 T. D.—Trap door.
 I.—Incubator.
 G.—Basement floor.

lid to admit a four inch galvanized iron pipe entering at an oblique angle. The pipe leads directly from the incubator, which is in the basement, up to the floor, where it connects with a wooden chute that in turn opens by a two inch square aperture to the outside of the building. The aperture is closed by two galvanized iron flaps, one on the inside of the wall and the other at the outside; the latter is kept closed by a spring in order to prevent the wind from opening it and sending gusts down into the incubator. At the lower oblique end of the pipe, the end in the incubator, is a hinged door that is opened by the force of the diphtheria tube case as it strikes after sliding down the chute. Then the door closes of its own weight after the tube has fallen into the incubator. A glass door, and a galvanized iron slide arranged to be opened or closed, are in the wooden chute above the floor. If desired, the slide may be closed so that tubes dropped into the chute during the day time may not go down into the incubator in the basement, but may be taken out and put into the incubator in the laboratory. The temperature of the incubator varies but little. It may be made more nearly constant by wrapping the iron pipe with asbestos paper, or with felt. The device has proved eminently successful and has saved many an after-supper trip to the laboratory. See figure 2.

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