

## ATTENTION LOCALS

Send notices and reports of meetings as promptly as possible. Records of organization, names of past officers, etc., are also useful. THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER wants to hear from all of the local organizations, so that news of their activities may be published. Write now to

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## A METHOD OF MOUNTING GUARD CELLS

A laboratory teaching method in use in Lakewood High School was stimulating to me as a new member of the department, and I wonder if others might not find it useful. Instead of the usual stained slides designed to show the lower epidermis of leaves, we use freshly prepared ones which are far superior in showing the normal appearance of guard cells.

After trying various plant materials such as Wandering Jew and Geranium, we found the best results with the ordinary garden pea germinated in a pan of sand.

The mounting procedure is simple. After removing a leaf portion, it is placed flat in its normal position on a glass slide. Then using a small knife, we scrape carefully with a sideways movement to remove the upper and middle cell layers until the clear, transparent, skin-like lower epidermis is left. With a drop of water and a cover glass the mounting is completed in the usual way.

The plump, turgid guard cells cause the stomata to show clearly; and the green chloroplasts within contrast sharply with the clear, well-defined epidermal cells.

Perhaps this suggestion is old stuff to many, but it was a thrill to see for the first time the normal appearance of

guard cells instead of the usual stained, prepared ones. In addition, it affords an experience for the student in preparing his own slide.

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## DEVELOPING AUDIO- VISUAL PROGRAM

Specific recommendations for the development of audio-visual programs in schools and school systems have just been released by the American Council on Education in its publication *A Measure for Audio-Visual Programs in Schools*. These basic statements are an attempt to outline a comprehensive plan for the development of programs on all organizational levels—individual building, local school system (county, city, and town), state department of education and state institutions of higher education. The recommendations indicate the desirable interrelationships of the various levels as well as their specific functions. They set a high standard—one that is far in advance of most present programs—yet they can in no way be called visionary.

The recommendations are offered for the consideration of those school systems which have organized departments of audio-visual education as well as those which plan to inaugurate or expand such departments. For the former the recommendations will be a measure of the present effectiveness and completeness of the local program; for the latter they provide a framework upon which to build.

As a part of a study carried on last year the Council went directly to teachers to secure information on current problems affecting the extent and kind of use made of educational motion pictures in the classroom. Part II of *A Measure for Audio-Visual Programs in Schools* discusses these problems as they emerged from interviews with teachers in six cities. The information compiled through these interviews pointed directly to the need for a set of basic recommendations and indicated also the desirability of making such recommendations in the broader field of audio-visual education.

*A Measure for Audio-Visual Programs in Schools* was prepared by Helen Hardt Seaton for the Committee on Visual Aids in Education. It is available from the American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C. for forty cents a copy.