



HOBBIES

Making one biological hobby pay for another—the following news release from St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, will be of special interest to readers of *The American Biology Teacher*, many of whom have expressed interest in Rev. Baechle's articles and pictures:

"A unique way of financing his hobby, nature photography, has been worked out by the Rev. John Baechle, C.P.P.S., assistant professor of biology at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind.

"The priest-scientist, while tramping about with his camera, collects biological specimens to sell to biological supply houses. He sees 200 chicken lice as \$6.00 worth of film. To him, 300 sow bugs mean \$3.75 in flash bulbs. English sparrows, which Father Baechle thinks of as *Passer domesticus*, and European starlings, which are listed in his books as *Sturnus vulgaris*, are worth \$10.00 a hundred toward a new lens.

"Lilac leaves, 420 of them showing mature mildew—*microsphaera* to Father Baechle—are \$3.15 worth of developer. And the young priest is aware that 226 large dytiscus water beetles preserved in 70 per cent alcohol are a potential \$7.71 down payment on an enlarger."

GADGETS

Here is another useful "gadget" which was made up by the Home Economics sewing class. Dust-proof covers for microscopes and other instruments may be made from plastic material sold for shower curtains, etc. Merely cut out and stitch as shown in the accompanying figure.

DONALD S. LACROIX,
Amherst High School,
Amherst, Massachusetts



COLLECT CATERPILLARS of various types and keep them in a container where they have soil, sticks, and other places where they can pupate. Some of them will perhaps complete their metamorphosis, thus providing an observation of the entire life history.

INSECT WINGS and similar flat objects can be mounted between thin sheets of Plexiglass and similar plastics; the cement for holding two layers of plastic together can be made by dissolving the plastic in acetone. The wing should be saturated in acetone before making the mount.