

secondary-science textbooks in reducing much of the *unnecessary* terminology, and my suggestions should not be construed as a defense of those teachers who continue to burden their students with an excessive dependency on terminology.

Students can be shown that biologists really do say what they mean. In fact, they say *exactly* what they mean, and no more.

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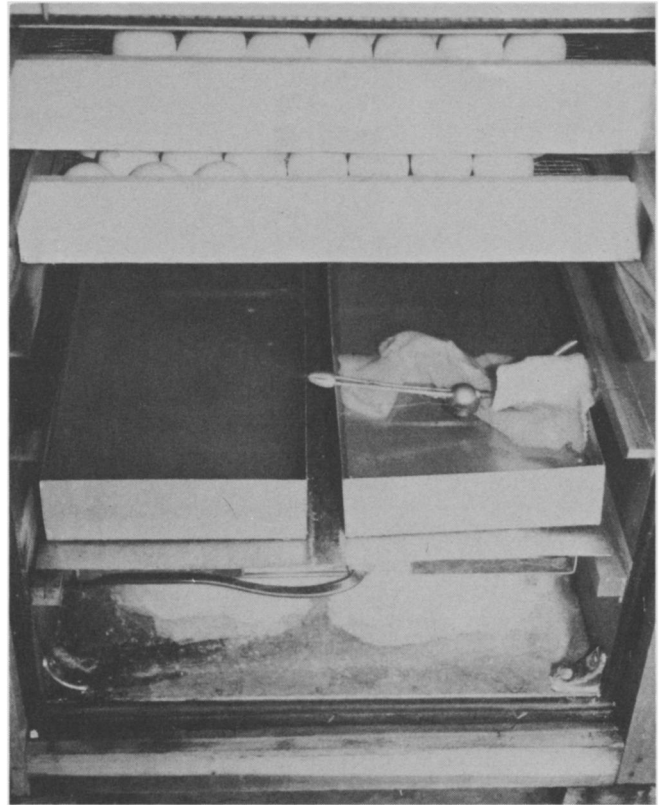
Device for Controlled Humidification

It is frequently necessary to hold relatively small spaces, such as incubators, at high and fairly constant levels of humidity. In a dry climate it may even be difficult to produce the moderate levels of humidity required for the successful incubation of chicken eggs when only stationary water trays are used. Commercial controlled-humidification devices are available but expensive. For several years now, I have been using a simple arrangement that yields fairly accurately controlled relative humidities in incubators over a wide range of values.

The system has five principal components: (i) a rag; (ii) a shallow but rather capacious water reservoir; (iii) an air pump such as is used to bubble air through an aquarium; (iv) an enclosed thermostwitch that opens its contacts on rising temperature (Fenwall #17302-0 or a similar one); and (v) a perfume atomizer without its bowl or rubber bulb.

One wire going from the plug to the air pump is cut, and the two leads from the thermostwitch are connected to the cut wires so that the switch is in series with the pump. The switch is placed in the incubator immediately over the water reservoir and the rag is suspended from the body of the switch into the reservoir. The switch, consequently, acts as a wet-bulb thermostat. The pump, which is kept outside the incubator, is connected to the atomizer in place of the rubber bulb by a length of convenient plastic or rubber tubing. The stem of the atomizer—the part that originally sat in the bowl—is placed in the water reservoir in the incubator, and the atomizer is then oriented to spray across the incubator. That completes the construction of the unit.

If the incubator is not already so equipped, a wet-bulb-dry-bulb thermometer combination or other type of hygrometer is placed in it. The thermostwitch is adjusted until the pump starts. At this time, a spray of water should issue from the atomizer's nozzle. If it does not, most likely a particle of dirt has entered the ducts of the atomizer; the particle often can be removed by momentarily placing a finger over the nozzle so as to cause the air to flow out the stem and blow bubbles in the reservoir. When the relative humidity, as judged by the hygrometer reading or the difference between the wet-bulb and dry-bulb tem-



Device in small humidified chamber containing eggs. Atomizer lies in front of rag, which is wrapped around thermostat and dipped in water. Connection to pump is seen in space below.

peratures, has reached the desired point, the thermostwitch is readjusted until the pump just stops. Further adjustment is rarely needed unless a different humidity level is desired.

Maintenance consists in keeping the reservoir filled with clean tap water or, preferably, distilled water; reverse-flushing the atomizer by occluding the nozzle, as described above; replacing the rag when the old one has become rotten; and keeping the pump oiled according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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Correction

The authors of "Anyone Can Start an AT Biology Program" (*ABT* 33 [8]: 480-483f.) inform us that their statement that Bob Prior and Don Oberacker were Mount Wachusett Community College teachers is incorrect. Prior, at Quinsigamond Community College, Oberacker, at Greenfield Community College, and Ted Filteau, at Mount Wachusett, shared a federal grant and formed a consortium to develop the curriculum called *Man in the Biosphere*.