

A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR HANDLING HOT EVAPORATING DISHES.*

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The lifting, holding or transferring of a hot evaporating dish is frequently very inconvenient. The crucible tongs, although sometimes used, are not well adapted for the purpose of handling any but the smaller dishes. For handling dishes varying from six inches in diameter upward they are very risky to use.

Test tube holders are even less well adapted than crucible tongs and the method which is frequently or one might say, generally employed, that of using a towel or a piece of cloth, is decidedly unsatisfactory and unprofessional.

A satisfactory device which may be made in a few minutes by anybody who has a large cork and a sharp penknife has been in use by me for a long time with great success.

Take a No. 10 or 12 cork and beginning at the small end, cut a slit in it slightly wider than the thickness of the dish and running back about three-fourths the length of the cork. When completed, this makes a springy handle which can be slipped over the side of the dish and firmly grasped with the fingers without danger either of burning them or contaminating the contents of the dish. For large or heavy dishes, two of the improvised handles may be used, one being slipped over each side of the dish when it is to be moved.

PHARMACISTS THAT I HAVE MET.

JAMES G. STEELE, SAN FRANCISCO.

WILLIAM M. SEARBY.

In the year 1865, I had occasion to visit the drug store of H. P. Wakelee & Co., in the Occidental Hotel, on the corner of Bush and Montgomery streets (at that time I was in the employ of William H. Keith & Co., No. 521 Montgomery street). I met a pleasant voiced gentleman behind the counter, who, after some conversation, referred me to Mr. Stroud, an English pharmacist then in charge of the establishment.

My short talk with Mr. Searby was the commencement of a friendship that lasted forty-five years, until his death in October, 1910. This friendship strengthened with the passing of years and was of much benefit to me in many ways.

Mr. Searby was educated in England (his native country) and passed successfully through the different examinations in London, the headquarters of the British Pharmaceutical Society, until the *major examination* was reached, when he passed with "flying colors" and was granted the legal title of "Pharmaceutical Chemist." After some years of business partnership with his brother, Wright Searby, he made up his mind to go to America and so took ship for Vic-

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