

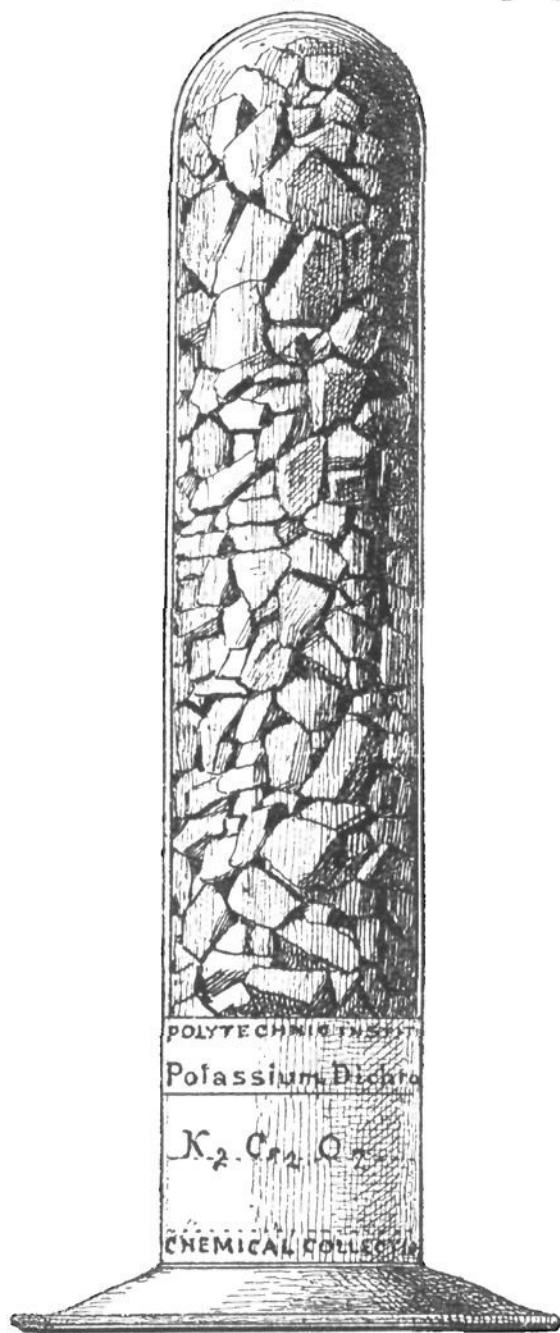
## NOTE.

*A New Specimen Bottle.*<sup>1</sup>—There are several reasons why glass-stoppered bottles are not well adapted for small specimens. The neck and stopper form an awkward looking cover to the specimen. The neck is usually too small in proportion to the width of the bot-

tle, and as a specimen is not intended to be taken out of its receptacle, the stopper and ground neck are inappropriate. But the chief objection to their use is their cost.

The form which I have found to be very practical consists of a tube with a rounded top provided with a flanged base. This form is pleasing to the eye, exhibits the whole of the specimen, is not easily upset, is air- and moisture-tight, and is low priced.

In filling the tube, it is inverted, and when enough of the specimen has been put in, a cylindrical (not conical cork) is pushed in. When the specimen does not pack, or when but few crystals are placed in the tube, it is well to paste a disk of white paper in the top of the cork, so as to conceal it from sight. In the case of colorless crystals, glazed black paper gives a better effect. The



FULL SIZE.

<sup>1</sup> Read before the New York Section, October 4, 1895.

cork should be driven in so as to leave about one-sixteenth of an inch space below the jointure of the tube and the flange. Melted paraffin is then poured in. A layer a quarter of an inch thick is quite enough to exclude air and moisture and to hermetically seal the tube. If desirable, the whole space of the base may be filled with paraffin, and, when cool, the wax may be pared down flat with a knife long enough to touch both sides. The addition of a little lampblack to the paraffin makes a better effect. The label is then put on. It should be long enough to give a slight lap and wide enough to cover the cork. The top of the cork should be just level with the edge of the label. The inside of the base flange may be painted with black varnish, or it may be made of black or colored glass.

The flanged base prevents the tubes from touching each other, and thus shows off the samples very effectively. It is well to arrange the shelves in stairs. The steps may be three inches wide and two and a half inches high. The rows should be alternate, so that the labels of each row but the first may be seen between the tubes of the row in front of it.

When a small amount or a single crystal of a specimen is to be exhibited, a good effect can be produced by thrusting a copper wire into the cork and twisting the other end into a circle about half an inch in diameter. On this is placed a three-fourths of an inch watch glass, and in this the specimen. The stalk of the support should be about two inches long. Other modifications will naturally occur to any one.

As the operations involved in making these specimens are few and simple, their cost is low in comparison with the ground glass-stoppered bottles. Whitall and Tatum make the size represented in the cut for \$7.00 a gross in four gross lots, which is a shade less than five cents a piece. Larger or smaller sizes can be furnished at proportional prices.

PETER T. AUSTEN.