

between two female gophers. The punishment given by the larger one caused the death of the smaller one.

In evidence that there is a necessary transpiration through the under shell or plastron a gopher will die if that part of the body is vanished.

The gopher is eaten and much esteemed as food by the colored people. It is popularly supposed to contain portions of all kinds of meat and fish under its different segments. My experience is that it is more palatable than any other testudo, and it contains but one kind of meat, and that tough.

I must be pardoned for not referring to the literature of my subject. It is because I have found almost nothing, and that brief and incomplete in "Wood's Natural History," and I write this far from libraries and reference books.

Orlando, Florida, December 23, 1899.

LIBRARIES OF MICROSCOPICAL SLIDES.

BY A. J. BIGNEY.

Since the earliest times it has been the custom of educated people to have libraries. No line of thought has received more attention in the past few years than the biological sciences. Probably the world has received more physical good from such work than from any other source. What the next generation will bring forth can hardly be imagined. Every one who owns a microscope is adding a little to the world's stock of knowledge in biology. Not only does such a worker need books, but he should make another kind of library, a collection of slides. To the teacher in biology this is almost a necessity. To make the slides of greatest use they should be classified in some systematic way. It has been my experience and observation, in small as well as large colleges and universities, that the slides are packed away without any or very little system, and the teacher must depend upon his memory in finding them. This causes very much annoyance and much loss of time. Last fall I classified my slides in a simple way and it has been of so much value to me that I feel

it is important to call the attention of other workers to this, or at least suggest something that will cause them to do the same thing.

The slide box or tray is marked with Roman numerals. The places for the slides are usually marked with the Arabic numbers by the manufacturer of the boxes. On the label of each slide are marked the Roman numeral, which indicates the number of the box in which the slide is to be placed and the Arabic number, which indicates its position in the box.

All the slides are now catalogued on cards or on sheets of paper. In cataloguing, the name of the specimen on each slide should be given and following in the Roman and Arabic numbers on that particular slide. The cards should be arranged alphabetically and kept near the slides. Since the slides are used by the different students, they will have to be replaced, and by this method any one can tell in an instant where they belong. If, for instance, you desire a section of liver, look for same on card. The reference may be XII—24; hence, find box XII, and the slide will be found at "24."

A METHOD OF REGISTRATION FOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL PURPOSES.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

The Board of State Charities has undertaken a registration of the inmates of the various benevolent and correctional institutions of the State. The work began by an enumeration of the inmates of poor asylums, orphans' homes and insane hospitals, some years since, and has been elaborated so as to give the individual and family history of each person. This is now being extended to the prisons, reformatory, reform schools, school for feeble-minded youth, and institution for the education of the deaf. The information to be obtained includes the name, age, color, date of admission, physical and mental condition, together with information concerning education, home influences, religious influences, character of training, whether possessed of a trade, and other facts that are thought will have a bearing upon the individual. Family history includes the names of both parents, the place of their nativity, their pecuniary condition, whether intemperate, criminal, insane, epileptic, feeble-minded or con-