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A SIMPLE TYPE OF MUSEUM JAR
FOR LARGE ALCOHOLIC SPECIMENS.

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If the experience of the writer is typical, the storage of large specimens in alcohol or formalin presents serious difficulties to museum men. The glass jars sold for this purpose are too fragile and expensive when larger than six inches in diameter and 15 inches high, besides generally being too small in diameter in proportion to the height. Stone jars may be had in more convenient sizes, but we have not found among those otherwise suitable any with covers that fit tightly enough to prevent the evaporation of the preservative. There are several kinds of stone jars that may be sealed tightly enough with the aid of wax, paraffin, &c., but these are too inconvenient for museum purposes. Even the Johnston* jars, which come the nearest to being satisfactory, need rather constant attention to keep the water renewed in the groove, if water is used, besides being inconvenient by reason of their too great weight and cumbersome covers that cannot be interchanged. Pre-requisites of a convenient museum jar are proper form, light weight, and a cover that may be readily removed and quickly, tightly and permanently resealed with little inconvenience, and without the use of oils.
In experimenting with various jars at the University of Michigan Museum, we have come to adopt, for large specimens, a simple jar that admirably satisfies our needs. For the jar itself we use for most specimens the stone churn of commerce, in four and six gallon sizes. These are covered with the best rubber sheeting, the rubberized face of the sheeting being placed inside. The sheeting is held in place by a heavy web pull strap (such as is used by bankers, lawyers, &c., to tie up documents), which fits snugly about the neck of the jar under the flange at the top. These straps are very convenient fasteners for this purpose, as they can be tightened by simply pulling the free end and readily released by drawing backward the other end. Where larger jars (15-25 gallons) are needed, the regular stone crocks are used and sealed in the same manner.

The completed jar, as illustrated, presents a neat appearance, occupies a minimum amount of space, is easy to handle, and is inexpensive. We have tested them for three years, and find that the evaporation of alcohol is negligible, and that the rubber tops show no signs of stiffening or cracking.