

contact with the acid, as they rapidly turn black. They may then be mounted in glycerine jelly, or in a solution of tartrate of potash.

Artificial heat is absolutely necessary for drying plants in quantity at sea, particularly in hot regions, where the air is constantly saturated with watery vapor; and an excellent drying-room has been discovered in a space in the funnel-casings. The plants are placed between single sheets of botanical drying-paper, and piled, with numerous wire ventilators interspersed among them, into bundles, which are drawn tight together with cords, which stand the heat better than straps. The bundles are placed in the drying-room, care being taken to tighten the cords from time to time, and in two days the plants are quite dry, without the trouble of changing the papers. A somewhat elaborate botanical press which occupies a corner of the work-room has been entirely abandoned for this method.

Two shelves fitted along the fore-bulkhead of the work-room sustain a detachment of the very valuable little library of books of reference with which we are provided; the remainder of the books find room where they can in the fore and after cabins, in the ward-room, and elsewhere.

The chemical laboratory (Fig. 2) is on the starboard side, nearly amidships. The following brief account of the laboratory, and of some of the principal apparatus and processes bearing upon our special line of research, is abstracted from a careful description prepared by Mr. Buchanan, which will appear in full elsewhere: The laboratory is 10 feet 4 inches long by 5 feet 3 inches wide, and 6 feet high. It is lighted by a large square port, and by glass sashes in the door and bulkhead toward the main-deck. The port is closed by a French window, in two sashes, opening inward. The fittings consist of a working-bench, a locker-seat, a blow-pipe table, a writing-table, and drawers. The working-bench fills up the space between the