Fig. 2 Cadaver suspended from balance by lowering the supporting rollers.

Letter to the Editor

Polystyrene mounting medium

The medium described by Kirkpatrick and Lendrum (1939) and named by them DPX (Distrene plasticised in xylene) was replaced by a better formula in 1941. This medium BPS (butyl phthalate plasticised styrene) has given excellent and economical service until recently. The current trouble was *not* due to the makers of the polystyrene.

Natural Styron 686E (natural signifies clear!), made by Messrs Dow Chemical Ltd, is now marketed in the smaller quantities in Britain as Polystyrene SA99/W Crystal by Messrs R. H. Cole Ltd, 85 Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts. Laboratories preparing their own BPS are advised to use this formula: Dissolve 12 g of the crystals in a mixture of 40 ml xylene and 4 ml dibutyl phthalate (Lendrum *et al.*, 1962 and 1972). This can be stored in glass or conveniently for use in screw-capped metal tubes filled from the open bottom end which is then closed by folding over with pliers. These 'Collapsible Tubes, 1 inch by 5½ inches' are

obtainable from Messrs Adelphi (Tubes) Ltd, 20 Duncan Terrace, London N18BZ. One pound (0.45 kg) of crystals provides mountant for more than 6000 coverslips (75% one inch square).

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