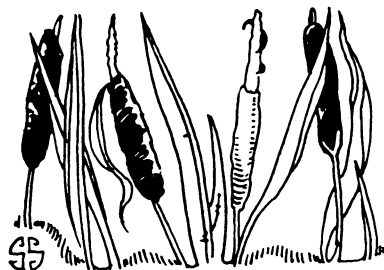

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By Frank Thone



Winter Reeds

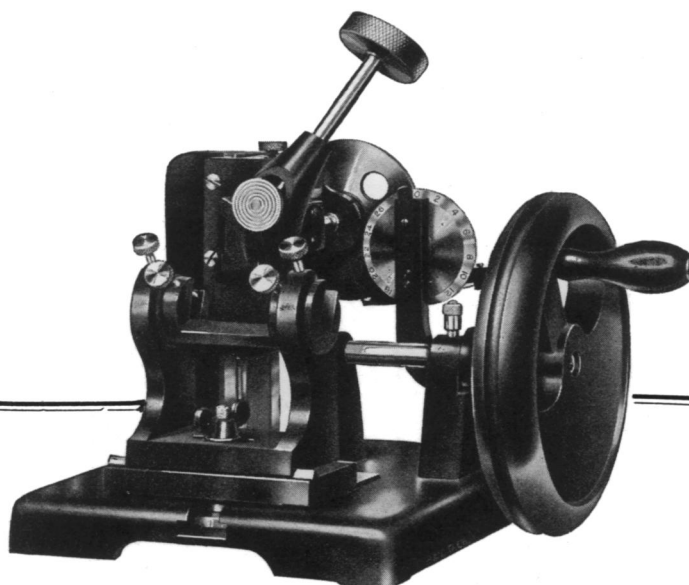
"The sedge has withered from the lake
"And no bird sings."

There, in two sure strokes of genius, we have a clean picture of the gray bleakness of winter. Surely nothing can more thoroughly convince one of cold than to walk along the shores of a frozen lake, crunching under foot the thin edges of the ice, with the stubble of last year's reeds and rushes sticking through, or perhaps to stand on the muddy margin of a pond whose bitter black waters are just not quite cold enough to freeze except for small splinters, like slim horizontal icicles, in among the stems, where the water is held still long enough to form them.

Yet without the decorations of sedges, cattails and other shore plants our winter lakes and ponds would seem even more naked and chill. Ragged and gray though they are, they are still trimmings of a sort, like bits of fur edging on a worn-out coat. And they offer shelter and the chances of food to straggling birds of the shore-hugging habit, for down among their matted roots and rhizomes there is an abundance of sluggish animal life to be probed out by the long bills of waders, and tucked away between the bases of their broken leaves and the stems earwigs and similar light-shunning insects lurk.

Some day, when the overpopulation that is always being talked about really arrives, the shore plants are going to be worked for what they are worth. Immediately under the mud at the bottom, they form massive mats of vegetable matter, which are their storehouses to provide for spring growth and blossoming. At present those reserves of starch are not worth raiding, but the day may come when we shall be glad to have them.

Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930



Minot Simplified Automatic Rotary Microtome

An improved Minot Rotary Microtome is offered by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company. Upon the suggestion of Dr. Howard T. Karsner of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, the best features of the Standard Rotary Microtome, as sponsored by the late Dr. Charles S. Minot of Harvard University, and the best features of this type of microtome formerly made by the International Instrument Company have been combined to form one microtome of unusual features.

Four of its outstanding features are:

1. The Universal Ball and Socket Specimen clamp, with one screw only for rigidity.
2. The vertical and horizontal bearings fitted with high grade steel inserts, contacted by screws conveniently placed to provide means for taking up wear when necessary.
3. A cog wheel of steel, which feeds two microns at a time.
4. The base which is very heavy to give great stability in use.

*Write for complete information on this model
No. 3017 model*

Bausch & Lomb Optical Company

697 Saint Paul Street

Rochester, N. Y.