

M0007793: "Glass garden" and observational drawings from Joseph Lister's experiments on the growth of oidium toruloides

Publication/Creation

23 April 1941

Persistent URL

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In order that he could watch the growth of the special cells of torula which appeared in the scum of uncontaminated urine, and his experience having shown him that the thin layer of atmosphere between two glass plates was exhausted in a few hours, Lister devised what he termed a "glass garden."

A small drop of organism and medium is placed on the central island and in order to ensure a moist atmosphere in the air chamber, a drop of boiled water was introduced into the surrounding "ditch." The whole covered by a piece of thin covering glass, the margins being luted down with paraffin. Lister says "In these conditions I have watched one and the same organism continuing to grow unaltered for several weeks together."

