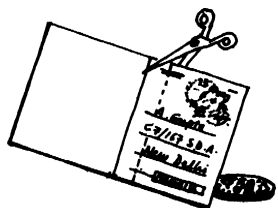
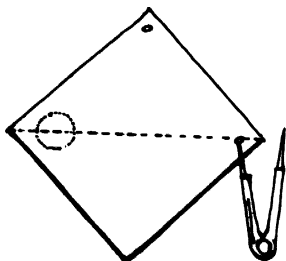


LETTER BALANCE

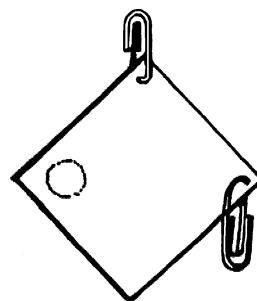
This simple balance is very convenient for weighing small letters.



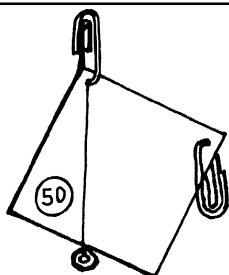
1. Cut a 9-cm square from an old postcard.



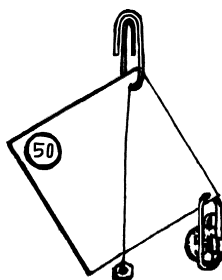
2. Draw a diagonal and poke two holes with a divider.



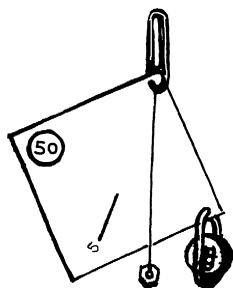
3. Insert paper clips in the two holes. The top clip will make the pivot. The right clip will hang the letters.



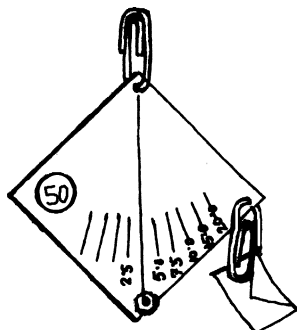
4. Stick a 50-paise coin (weight 5-gms) in the left corner. Tie a thread to the pivot clip and hang a small steel washer at its end. This will be the plumb line—always pointing vertically down.



5. Now suspend a 50-paise (the old 50-paise weighed 5-gms) from the right clip and mark the position of the pointer on the card. Again hang 7.5-gms (one old 50-paise and one old 25-paise coin) from the right clip and mark the position of the thread on the card.



6. Using the standard weights of coins indicate 2.5, 10, 15, 20-gms marks on the card.



7. This calibrated balance can now be used to weigh letters.



2 gms. 2.5 gms. 5 gms. 6 gms.

8. Some of the old coins (still in circulation) had interesting, easy-to-remember weights. These coins could be used as standard weights.