

genius of a Grant may be associated with an inability to acquire or even retain wealth. Inventions which have added enormously to the wealth of the nation have been made by men so poor that they were obliged to borrow money for living expenses. A prominent patent attorney with much experience recently said to me that he thought inventors as a class were without business ability, that is, without the ability to turn advantageously the product of their brains into money by means of which they could have leisure to do other work. No one can say how much the world has lost by the inability of the properly qualified men to give their best thought to discovery and invention. Had such a fund as that given for research by Mr. Carnegie been available in the past and been properly administered, the human race would in my opinion have been transformed into something immensely better than we have at present.

Hence, I believe that research funds, instead of prohibiting the payment of the personal expenses of the investigator, should be mainly devoted to the payment of such expenses, so that the investigator might be allowed to devote his whole time and his best thought to the investigation, even if for only a short time.

The funds thus administered would have plenty of applicants, and much work would be thrown on the trustees in seeing that the appropriations were made to the proper persons and properly used, but this is a task I think the trustees ought to assume.

H. H. CLAYTON.

HYDE PARK, MASS.,
Jan. 21, 1902.

A RARE 'WHALE SHARK.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The National Museum has obtained a skin of a rare 'whale-shark,' *Rhinodon*, from an eighteen-foot specimen found on the beach three miles north of Ormond, Florida, January 25, 1902, this being the first record of the occurrence of the genus on the Atlantic coast of America. The Museum is indebted to Messrs. Anderson and Price, managers of the Hotel Ormond, who

telegraphed the discovery to the Smithsonian Institution and later had the skin removed and shipped to Washington under instructions from Dr. F. W. True, Head Curator, Department of Biology.

Rhinodon typicus was first figured and described by Dr. Andrew Smith in his illustrations of the zoology of South Africa, in 1841, the type being a sixteen-foot example found at the Cape of Good Hope.* Another one of this species taken at the Seychelle Ids. is known from the teeth only.†

A genus related to *Rhinodon* was described by Dr. Theodore Gill in the proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1865, p. 177, under the name *Micristodus*, from jaws, vertebrae and notes, received by the Smithsonian Institution in 1858, from Captain Stone, and taken from a twenty-foot shark captured in the Gulf of California, where it was known as the 'Tiburón ballenas,' or 'Whale Shark.'

BARTON A. BEAN.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Feb. 8, 1902.

RECENT PROGRESS IN GLACIOLOGY.

OUR knowledge concerning glaciers past and present is gradually being extended by local studies in various parts of the earth. For several years, systematic effort has been made to record observations on the movements of existing glaciers for the sake of determining the conditions and laws governing their advance and retreat. Harry Fielding Reid has published a number of articles bearing on this general topic in recent years. The last of these articles‡ presents a summary of existing knowledge on the present phases of glacier movement in various parts of the world, with reference to advance and retreat.

Most of the glaciers of the Swiss Alps are retreating. In the eastern Alps about one half are retreating, while about one fourth are stationary, and nearly as many advancing. In

* Preserved in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes, Paris.

† British Museum.

‡ 'Variations of Glaciers,' *Journal of Geology*, Vol. IX., pp. 250-254.