

where he will serve as associate professor of surgery in the University of the Philippines.

A LECTURESHIP in fossil botany has been started at University College, London University, to which Dr. Marie Stopes has been appointed.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A SECOND CAPTURE OF THE WHALE SHARK, RHINEODON TYPUS, IN FLORIDA WATERS

IN SCIENCE for February 28, 1902, and again in Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 48, 1905, Mr. B. A. Bean, of the United States National Museum, has recorded the coming ashore on the beach three miles north of Ormond, Florida, of an 18-foot specimen of the whale shark, *Rhineodon typus*, the skin and some parts of which are preserved in the National Museum.

Mr. Bean, in the above papers, and Dr. Gill, in SCIENCE for May 23, 1902, and May 19, 1905, have thoroughly and interestingly summarized almost all the scanty literature of this very large and very rare fish. The purpose of this note is to record the capture in Florida waters of another and much larger specimen than the one of which Mr. Bean has made note.

On June 1, 1912, Captain Charles Thompson, of Miami, Florida, captured near Knight's Key, Florida East Coast Railway Extension, what is probably the largest specimen of the whale shark ever taken by man. This monster is reported to have been 45 feet long, and 23 feet in circumference, and its weight is estimated at from 15,000 to 30,000 pounds.

While in Miami last summer I talked with Captain Thompson and saw the as yet unmounted skin. To one who has never seen a whale, the skin of this shark is inconceivably large. During the winter Captain Thompson has had the skin mounted, and photographs of it show that the work has been well done. Through his courtesy I have not only these photographs, but also one of the fish taken shortly after its capture.

During the winter I have been collecting data on *Rhineodon*, and during the coming summer I expect to be in Miami, at which

time I purpose with Captain Thompson's permission to describe and to make careful measurements and to get from him full data concerning the capture of this great fish. This will be embodied in another and more extensive paper to be published later, in which will be included certain historical data not given in either Dr. Gill's or Mr. Bean's papers above referred to. In the meantime it seems well to call attention to this the second occurrence of the whale shark in the waters of the east coast of the United States.

As to the name of this fish, *Rhineodon typus*, the following statement may be made. The whale shark was first described from Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, by Dr. Andrew Smith in April, 1828. His description and figure were published in the *Zoological Journal* for 1829 under the name *Rhincodon typus*. However, this is clearly a typographical error, since the derivation is *rhine*, file + *odous* (*odont*), tooth. Muller and Henle (1838) first used the name given at the head of this paragraph, but later (1841) wrote it as it is commonly put, *Rhinodon typicus*. Dr. Gill, however (1905), goes back to the former spelling.

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#### "CARBATES"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In this age of method, accuracy and conciseness, we say sulphates instead of sulphurates; phosphates for phosphorates (better still, sulfates and fosfates); nitrates for nitrogenates; chlorates for chlorinates. Why should we not say *carbates* instead of carbonates?

We already say carbides instead of carbonides; why should we not follow the fashion consistently and say *carbates*?

We should then have the word carbation to mean the formation of carbates, leaving the word carbonation to refer to the development of carbon in a substance which would fittingly correspond to the present word carbonize, and so avoid a puzzling ambiguity.