

vapors, and hopes later to publish data on this subject.

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#### AUTOPSY OF A BLACK FISH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On July 5, 1920, a large female Blackfish, *Globocephalus malas*, a species of whale sixteen feet long came ashore near Woods Hole, Mass., and was brought to the Fish Commission Laboratory at this place for autopsy. The task was new to all present and when a large sac capable of holding a pailful or two was seen near the posterior end of the body, it was at once recognized as probably the empty bladder. This, however, proved to be incorrect for the empty urinary bladder was found near as a hard, flesh-colored organ contracted to the size of a man's large elongated fist. The sac when more closely examined was found to be a recently delivered uterus, completely relaxed, upon the inner surface of which the site of the placenta could be plainly made out and with its open mouthed sinuses capable of receiving the tips of a little finger. This therefore was probably an unique case of death from post-partum hemorrhage, damp bed and absence of a marine accoucheur with his ergot. A few days later the history of the case was completed by the finding of the infant, a youngster about three feet in length, also cast ashore near where the body of the mother was found.

There is no doubt the character of the case would certainly have been undiagnosed had there not been present at the post-mortum, an old general medical practitioner who recognized first that the body of the animal showed an almost exsanguine state, corroborated later by the condition of the relaxed uterus.

G. A. MACCALLUM

WOODS HOLE, MASS.,  
July 26, 1920

#### QUOTATIONS

##### THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN

THE plan for the creation of a national Botanic Garden and arboretum that will be comparable with government gardens in other

countries, and with public gardens in cities of the United States, should not be allowed to rest. There is force and sound argument in the proposal and no contrary argument. The present national Botanic Garden is national only in its name and in the fact that it is maintained at a slight cost to the nation. It is not national in its exhibit of plant forms. It was a pleasing little spot when the capital was a village. It carries one's thought back to when the mighty Library of Congress was housed in one small room in the Capitol. The Botanic Garden has made little growth in fifty years because it could not expand outside of its tall iron fence. Now the little space within that fence is being dedicated to monuments.

The weight of opinion among government and private botanists and landscape architects is that the Mount Hamilton tract should be the site of the great new and really national Botanic Garden. It fronts on one of the main boulevards. It is already accessible by steam and electric railroads. It adjoins the vast public park which the government is building up from the bottom, the marshes and the margins of the Eastern branch. It thus fits into and becomes a part of the park system. These are among the reasons which botanists urge to bring the matter into public favor. But to them the strong reasons are that in this tract of land are high hills, steep slopes, gentle slopes, thick woods with many varieties of timber, deep ravines, meadows, marshes, brooks and rivulets, and about all kinds of soil which all kinds of American plants pick out for home.

It is a great idea that the United States should have a Botanic Garden of which all Americans could say, "It is the greatest thing of its kind on earth."—Washington *Evening Star*.

#### A NEW BIOLOGICAL JOURNAL

DURING the past two decades the development of ecological studies in this country has been rapid. Five years ago, as a result of continued and insistent demand, the Ecological Society of America was organized and at once included in its membership botanists