

records are as follows: In January, 1902, an 18-foot specimen came ashore at Ormond, Fla. It was described by Mr. B. A. Bean in *SCIENCE*, February 28, 1902. Its skin is now in the U. S. National Museum. A second specimen was taken at Knight's Key, Fla., in May, 1912. It was put on record by me in *SCIENCE* of August 22, 1913, and the fish and its capture were fully described by me in "*Zoologica*," *Scientific Contributions N. Y. Zool. Soc.*, March, 1915. Its mounted skin is in the possession of Captain Charles Thompson of Miami, Fla. The third, and, except the Abrolhos Light specimen, the only other definite record, is of a fish taken near Cape Sable, Fla., in June, 1919. This I have also put on record in *SCIENCE* for August 27, 1920. The indefinite record in the Atlantic, to which reference has been made, is found in George Bennett's "Wanderings in New South Wales, Batavia, Pêdir Coast, Singapore and China," London, 1834. In Vol. II, p. 267, is a notice of a giant shark seen near the Azores in 1831. It was of great size, but too far off for spots and stripes to be seen, and while it was probably a *Rhineodon* it cannot be so stated definitely. Hence the specimen, referred to in the body of this article, constitutes our fourth definite record for the Atlantic Ocean.

E. W. GUDGER

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

#### DISCHARGE OF STATIC ELECTRICITY

A SPLENDID example of the discharge of static electricity between two persons was witnessed at one of the games in the gymnasium of Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant during the recent southeastern Iowa high school basketball tournament, and is reported by Ben H. Wilson, a member of the Iowa Academy of Science.

While the game was in progress between the Wayland and Ft. Madison teams, Saturday evening, March 11, 1922, two players in pursuit of the ball came together in the southeast corner of the court, after a fast run of almost half way down the length of the floor. A deep yellow spark was discharged between their bodies, the flash of which was plainly visible to spectators in the top row of the balcony in

the northwest corner of the gymnasium, over one hundred feet distant. This could be no illusion as it was witnessed by over a dozen persons who made exclamation of the fact almost simultaneously. The spark appeared to be emitted at about knee height. Both players had on rubber-soled athletic shoes which would be non-conductors, and wore woolen shirts and cotton flappers. That this was visible in a well lighted room makes the phenomenon all the more remarkable.

Shocking the cat by rubbing the fur on its back; lighting the gas from a spark emitted from one's knuckle; witnessing sparks while combing one's hair in the dark; and children's shocking each other while playing on woolen carpets, are all quite common experiences, but this is the first time that the writer has heard of a similar occurrence being reported during an athletic contest.

H. E. JAKUES

IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

#### PARAFFINE PAPER SCREEN FOR SHOWING THE POSITION OF RETINAL IMAGE

UNDER the title, "The Inversion of the Retinal Image," Hartridge<sup>1</sup> refers to a statement by Senet<sup>2</sup> that the retinal image is not inverted. The former author then states that the evidence for that inversion is absolutely reliable and proceeds, in five paragraphs, to summarize the evidence on which the inversion of the retinal image is based. I quote his first two paragraphs:

"(1) If the eye ball of an albino animal be removed intact, and be mounted in a tube, so that while the rays from external objects enter the pupil, the posterior surface of the eye ball can be examined by an observer, then owing to the absence of pigment in the choroid the image formed on the retina is clearly visible. This image is seen to be inverted, top being at bottom and right being at left.

(2) In the case of an ordinary animal the choroid and sclera can with care be removed from the eye ball, leaving the retina *in situ*; observa-

<sup>1</sup> Hartridge, H.: *Proc. of the Physiol. Soc.*, May 15, 1920, published in the *J. of Physiol.*, Vol. LIV, August 1920, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Senet: *Revista de la Universidad de Buenos Aires*, 41, p. 398, 1919.