

The whole enterprise is in the hands of a committee containing a number of American members. Subscriptions should be sent to the Honorable Treasurer, Professor J. Mellanby, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London, S. E. 1. Unless special designation is made, it will be concluded that donations are intended for the Waller Research Fund at the London School of Medicine, as originally proposed.

The many Americans who have enjoyed the lectures of Professor Waller in several institutions of this country, who have visited his laboratory in London, and who have had the rare privilege of coming into intimate contact with Professor and Mrs. Waller will welcome the opportunity to share in this admirably devised plan for a memorial, and thus perpetuate their long, active service to physiology.

FRANCIS G. BENEDICT

THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

REPORTS are appearing in the newspapers that President A. A. Murphree, of this university, has stated his agreement with the well-known views of William Jennings Bryan on the subject of evolution. This is due to the blunder of a local reporter, taken up and spread in garbled form by one of the less reliable news bureaus.

The actual facts are exactly contrary to the report. President Murphree's views on the subject of evolution are essentially in agreement with those of conservative modern scientists. Entire academic freedom is enjoyed by all members of the teaching staff of the biology department. No effort has ever been made to influence in any way either the manner or the matter of teaching.

Because of the mischief which this misstatement is capable of causing, if permitted to go unchallenged, the faculty of the department of biology of the University of Florida requests that you print this statement.

J. SPEED ROGERS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

A NEWSPAPER FOR MUSEUMISTS

The Museum News, which made its first appearance on January 1, 1924, is a newspaper published by The American Association of Museums. It is begun as a bi-weekly, but is expected soon to become a weekly. Judging from its frequency of issue, the *News* might be regarded, perhaps, as just a bulletin like many another, but from the standpoint of its editorial policy and its appearance, the *News* is an innovation. It publishes news, not articles. It states facts, not opinions. It features what is important. By virtue of its newness, it is proof against the historical and the

descriptive type of item which so frequently mars the current notes in a bulletin.

The Museum News is intended primarily for members of the association—a group which is becoming practically coextensive with the museum profession; but incidentally, the *News* will reach a wide range of chance readers, for a continued effort will be made to give single copies wide distribution. In this way much can be done to dispel the notion that museums are not on the alert. It is hoped that through their newspaper, members of the museum profession may benefit among themselves and that the profession as a whole may the more clearly register its work and its aims.

LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

THE SANTA BARBARA SKULL

It seems to me that Dr. E. H. Sellards, of the University of Texas, is unfair to Science Service when he criticizes us, in *SCIENCE*, December 28, 1923, for publishing an adverse opinion on the antiquity of skull found at Santa Barbara, California. The newspapers had published sensational articles announcing that an expedition of the Smithsonian Institution had discovered the remains of a primitive man older than the Neanderthal of Europe. We owed it to our newspaper clients to let them know that the Smithsonian Institution at Washington had not yet received from its agents in the field the complete report and photographs, but that "long experience covering numerous finds of so-called primitive man on this continent" led the anthropological experts to expect that the antiquity of the skull had been greatly overestimated in the press reports.

This seems to me a carefully worded and conservative statement of fact and I do not see how Science Service can be blamed for publishing it. Our information as to the "fossil human remains" at Vero, Florida, reported by Dr. Sellards, was obtained from Bulletin No. 66 of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1918, page 23. If we had been writing for a scientific journal we should have cited the reference in a footnote, but as everybody knows, footnotes are not permissible in the press.

I do not know who is right, Dr. Sellards or Dr. Hrdlička, in their controversy over the Vero find, but I am sure that the opinion of so eminent an anthropologist as Dr. Hrdlička is worth publishing.

Science Service can not altogether avoid controverted questions. In such a case it aims to get the views of competent authorities on different sides, but can not always procure opposing opinions in time to be put in the same press despatch.

EDWIN E. SLOSSON
SCIENCE SERVICE, WASHINGTON