cates that the substances function in nutrition, but does not indicate in advance of our knowledge *how* they function. The term makes no extravagant claim as to the indispensability of the substance or to any peculiar relationship to life, as unfortunately the terms "vitamin" and "bios" do. In form the new word is similar to the word "metabolite." There is a closely related word already in the dictionary, "nutrility," which pertains to nutrition, but is rarely used.

We may then define a nutrilite as a substance, other than the well-recognized nutrients, which functions in small amounts in the nutrition of organisms. It is to be expected that borderline cases will appear in which it will be difficult to decide whether or not the material in question should be regarded as a nutrilite. This will not seriously impair the usefulness of the term, however, since a similar situation exists in the case of many words such as, for example, "carbohydrate" and "alkaloid."

ROGER J. WILLIAMS

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

AN ANCIENT WALRUS SKULL

A RATHER interesting find, in the nature of an ancient walrus skull, recently made on Georges Bank off Cape Cod, has been presented to the Boston Society of Natural History. The skull, consisting of the fore part with tusks, which are twelve and fourteen inches long, and most of the flat-crowned crushing teeth of the upper jaw still in place, belongs to an animal now unknown as far south as the New England coast.

It has not been determined how this skull came to be on the bank, nor is it known how long it may have lain on the sea bottom, but it is probable that it came there two hundred and twenty or three hundred years ago. The walrus occurred, during the Ice Age, as far south as Virginia and the Carolinas, where fossil remains have been reported; in the seventeenth century it was found on Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, while during the last century it was quite common in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the shores of Labrador. It is quite possible at that time some of them may have visited the waters of the Gulf of Maine, or even strayed as far south as the Georges Bank, and that the specimen recently found belongs to one of these.

BIRGER R. HEADSTROM

MEDFORD HILLSIDE,
MASSACHUSETTS

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain is holding its seventy-third annual exhibition in September and October of this year. It is hoped that the American representation in the scientific section will be such as to demonstrate the place held by this country in applied photography. I am collecting and forwarding American work for the scientific section again this year. Exhibits should consist of prints showing the use of photography for scientific purposes and its application to spectroscopy, astronomy, radiography, biology, etc. Photographs should reach me not later than June 8, and should be mounted but not framed. There are no fees.

A. J. NEWTON

EASTMAN KODAK CO.,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

LOW HUMIDITY AND HIGH TACITURNITY

ARIZONA is perhaps best known in the demi-lands of letters as the abode of strong, silent men. So steeped in sentimentality is the lore of their laconism that a pragmatic interpretation has become imperative.

The low humidity of Arizona is almost as proverbial as the silence of her strong men. This is no mere fortuitousness. For low humidity begets parched throats, and it is axiomatic that a desiccated larynx and a vociferous tongue are incompatible.

A practical application suggests itself. Repression of verbosity has been, at times, a problem of national concern, actually jeopardizing the Senate rules. The atmosphere of the district is notoriously humid, and in such an environment loquacity thrives. But to euthenics there is available an effective antidote, a local anesthetic of uncanny selectivity. Even the most garrulous of filibusters could be silenced quickly by the aid of a potent air-dehumidizer.

E. A. VUILLEUMIER

DICKINSON COLLEGE

REPORTS

HORIZONTAL VERSUS VERTICAL FORCES IN CRUSTAL MOVEMENTS OF THE EARTH

PROFESSOR BAILEY WILLIS, of Leland Stanford University, and now president of the Geological Society of America, addressed the Boston Geological Society on January 11, 1928, on "Horizontalist or Verticalist?"

The doctrine of the direction of forces causing diastrophism is a question of faith. Willis stated that he was brought up a horizontalist, and in 1876 G. K. Gilbert had told him to study Appalachian structure, and he was carried far in seeing the effects of horizontal thrusting. On later expeditions into the Alps, the Andes and into Patagonia Willis found his faith in horizontalism supported. Later he went to California, where Gilbert had studied the structure of