

sea. In time of heavy flood, when the rush of water was sufficient to wash out the sand bar, the river flow carried down not only the additional amount of material for which the rapid current furnished the necessary carrying power, but also flushed out more or less gravel from the gravel bars that had formed along its course, as well as that which had accumulated behind the sand bar at the mouth, and carried it all out to sea. The sand bar was also subject to attack from the ocean side, by heavy storms at sea; these storms not only furnished the means of destroying the sand bar and for the time being opening the mouth of the river for the free transportation into the sea of the gravel and diamonds accumulated behind the bar, but also served to distribute the diamond-bearing gravel along the coast, to the northward in the case of a storm from the south or southwest, and to the south-

ward in the case of a storm from the north or northwest. In this way the diamonds were carried many miles both to the north and the south of the mouth of the river. The carrying capacity of the storm water for the diamonds was increased by the fact that the turbulent water along the shore line was heavily charged with suspended sand, and the buoyancy of the diamonds in this sand-water was proportionately increased, because of its higher specific gravity.

Once deposited in the sea, the diamonds and gravel, under the influence of storms, ocean currents and wave action, were not only distributed up and down the coast and washed up on the shore line, but the constant riffling action of the waves supplied a concentrating action, with the result that the larger stones were deposited close to the river mouth, while the smaller ones were carried farther up and down the coast.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ANTHROPOLOGISTS AT THE WELLCOME MUSEUM

*The British Medical Journal* reports that a reception for the members of the Royal Anthropological Institute and other bodies interested particularly in African races and culture was held at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum on October 10, Dr. Henry S. Wellcome, the museum's founder and director, acting as host. After making a tour of the museum, which includes an exposition of the healing arts as practised among primitive peoples, the visitors were addressed by Lord Lugard, formerly Governor-General of Nigeria, and now British member of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. The interest which had been shown in the welfare of subject races during the past few years, said Lord Lugard, was one of the most remarkable phenomena of the twentieth century, but in reality it had been growing ever since the abolition of the over-sea slave trade. In his own acquaintance with the lawless savage Lord Lugard had found that in fact tribal organization exercised an effective discipline, and created a strong patriotism for the local community and an unswerving loyalty to the chief. Tribalism had its own code of civil and criminal law, and had evolved among other things a system of land tenure. He emphasized the need for that first task of the anthropologist, the study of existing institutions among primitive peoples. To that end Dr. Wellcome's extremely interesting museum, illustrating the practice of medicine throughout the world from the earliest ages, makes a great contribution. Lord Lugard linked it with the ethnological museum in the Lateran Palace at Rome, which showed in contrast the earlier conditions of primitive savagery and the

achievements of to-day, thanks to missionary effort on various lines, including educational and medical. Such collections conferred great benefits on both the white man and the black, and would assist in solving the problem of race relations in the future. Professor J. L. Myres, president of the Royal Anthropological Institute, also expressed to Dr. Wellcome the feelings of gratitude with which anthropologists regarded one of the most stimulating museums in the country. It was a museum where the objects themselves were of extraordinary interest; but what gave them their peculiar value was that they were all eloquent in their selection, arrangement and description of the continuity and development of one of the noblest of applied sciences that mankind had at its disposal. Other speeches were made by Dr. C. S. Myers, director of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology; Dr. H. J. E. Peake, vice-president of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and Mr. T. A. Joyce, deputy keeper of the department of ethnography in the British Museum. Dr. Wellcome, in a few sentences in reply, explained how, soon after he began collecting, the idea of assisting research workers and students took possession of his mind, and he gradually formed a museum which visualized, as a museum should do, within its particular sphere, the failures and mistakes as well as the successes of the past.

### WILD LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

In an effort to preserve accurate records of the distribution of wild life in the Lassen Park area of California before further changes incident to its conversion into a public domain take place, the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has published a report extending to 595 pages.