compound of inestimable practical and theoretical value, the outcome from which no one can predict.

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EOCENE LAGOMORPHA

AMONG the discoveries made by the Carnegie Museum field party during the field season of 1932 which are of interest to the paleontologist was that of remains of Lagomorpha in the Upper Eocene of the Uinta Basin in northeastern Utah. This material will add considerably to our knowledge of the phylogeny of this group and will probably have considerable bearing upon Eocene and Oligocene stratigraphy as well.

Actually, the first discovery of Lagomorph fossils in the Uinta Eocene was made in 1923, when a Carnegie Museum field party, consisting of O. A. Peterson and J. LeRoy Kay, found a fragmentary lower jaw in Horizon C at Little Pleasant Valley, about six miles east and south of Myton, Uinta County, Utah. The poor condition of the specimen made it undesirable for a type, and its description was deferred, pending the discovery of better preserved diagnostic material. During the field season of 1931 members of our party obtained a single inferior cheek tooth of a Lagomorph from a horizon in the Duchesne Oligocene series very near the base of the latter beds, about two miles east of Randlett, Uinta County, Utah. In 1932 the Little Pleasant Valley locality near Myton was revisited and a number of excellent specimens, representing at least three species of Leporidae, were found in Horizon C of the Uinta Eocene series, approximately three hundred feet below the base of the Duchesne Oligocene.

This material is being studied by the writer at the present time and will be described shortly in the *Annals* of the Carnegie Museum.

J. J. BURKE

CARNEGIE MUSEUM

BLUE EYES FOR BROWN

FEW nowadays underrate the value of the press in the spread of knowledge. Cheering to certain minds will be in that connection extracts from a correspondence which began when *Collier's Magazine* for July 16, 1932, published in Freling Foster's column "Keeping Up With the World" the statement that:

> After a prolonged absence of sunlight, men on polar expeditions find that their eyes, irrespective of previous color, have turned blue.—*By C. G. Matson, Los Angeles, California.*

Collier's pays $5.00 for contributions such as Mr. Matson's. Under date of July 13 I accordingly tried to sell them the idea that:

> After a prolonged absence of sunlight, men on polar expeditions find that their eyes, irrespective of previous color, are still of the same color.

There came in reply a form letter, saying that my contribution was under consideration. Then, under date of September 7, Freling Foster wrote, declining (by inference) to purchase from me and defending Mr. Matson:

> This contribution was not only accompanied by confirmatory data but it checks with our reference books which describe how the human body is affected by the long polar night.
>
> One book that I can recall offhand is "Sunlight and Health," by Dr. C. P. Saleeby, which was published a short time ago by Putnam.

I checked up the reference and found that on pp. 59–60 of "Sunlight and Health" (N. Y., 1924) Dr. Saleeby says:

> Polar explorers record that, after prolonged absence of sunlight, all the eyes of their men are blue.

Dr. Saleeby did not mention the names of these explorers, and so I wrote him, quoting his own statement and asking further details. On November 24, he replied:

> I wish I could help you, but I know no other reference to the subject than the one which I refer to in my book—taken from the journal of Captain Scott, if I remember aright after all these years.

Here was a clue and I followed it up by writing to Frank Debenham, geologist of Scott's second expedition, now professor of geography in the University of Cambridge and director of the Scott Polar Research Institute. I gave a summary of the correspondence, adding:

> In the book itself I noticed no sign that Dr. Saleeby had relied . . . on the journals of Captain Scott. I am trying to make a rather thorough job of tracing down the belief or fact that eyes change color during the absence of the sun, and surely you at the Institute must have the best command of all the Scott material. I hope, then, that the Institute will be able to give me, first, proof or disproof that comes from the records of any member of the Scott expeditions and, second, any other evidence for or against that may be within your reach.

On December 18, Professor Debenham replied:

> Following up your query about the change of colour of eyes during the polar darkness, a phenomenon which I find it hard to believe, I wrote to our Dr. Levick. . . . I have certainly noticed no such effect.

Surgeon-Commander G. M. Levick, medical officer