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

FREDERICK S. HAMMETT,
Scientific Director
MARINE EXPERIMENTAL STATION OF
THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE
LANKENAU HOSPITAL,
NORTH TRURO, MASSACHUSETTS

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

and zoologist on Scott's 1910–1913 expedition, replied, December 15, to the institute:

With regard to my own eyes, I am rather a good example as during our last winter I spent six months with the rest of the northern party. . . . I noticed that my eyes had not changed in colour after this. I think that is the general experience.

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

NEW YORK, N. Y.

REPORTS

THE BANTING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AT its recent annual meeting, the trustees of the Banting Research Foundation reviewed the work accomplished under its grants during the previous year.

The following changes have taken place in the trustees. Sir Robert Falconer has resigned, and in consequence Mr. C. S. Macdonald, president of the Confederation Life Association, was appointed chairman of the board; and Dr. H. J. Cody, president of the University of Toronto, was appointed vice-chairman. Sir William Mulock and Dr. Cody were joined as members of the board, representing the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto, by Dr. H. B. Anderson.

The following workers have received grants from the foundation during the past year: Miss A. M. Alley, McGill University, who has been working under Professor Babkin on gastric and salivary secretion; Dr. Maurice Brodie, McGill University, on poliomyelitis; Dr. H. H. Burnham, University of Toronto, on the vascular supply to the nasal mucosa; Dr. M. M. Cantor, University of Alberta, on the active principle of the adrenal cortex; Dr. H. A. Cates, University of Toronto, representing a committee studying the relation between parentage and the difficulties of childbirth; Dr. A. M. Davidson, University of Manitoba, on the diagnosis of skin diseases and their treatment; Miss Ruth Dow, McGill University, on the auditory area of the brain; Mr. G. T. Evans, McGill University, on the effect of lack of oxygen in exercise, high altitudes and anesthesia on the chemical changes in the heart muscle leading to failure; Dr. R. H. Fraser, University of Manitoba, on the diagnosis of tuberculosis; Dr. J. W. Gilchrist, University of Western Ontario, on the infections following childbirth; Dr. R. Gottlieb, McGill University, on the use of thorium dioxide in the diagnosis of abnormal conditions in the liver; Mr. H. C. Graham, Dalhousie University, on the excretion of uric acid; Miss E. R. Grant, McGill University, on the effect of starvation and exercise on the chemistry of muscle; Mr. J. M. Hershey, University of Toronto, working with Prof. C. H. Best, on the treatment of fatty degeneration of the liver; Mr. F. L. Horsfall, Jr., McGill University, on the fate of lactic acid in the body; Dr. E. E. Shouldice, University of Toronto, on the effect of operations on the intestinal canal; Mr. L. R. LeFave, Queen's University, on the diagnosis of typhoid fever; Professor D. Mainland, University of Manitoba and Dalhousie University, study of the human ovary; Mr. P. G. Mar, University of Manitoba, a study of a rare type of skin disease; Dr. D. R. Mitchell, University of Toronto, on the treatment of urinary infections; Dr. R. A. Moreash, Dalhousie University, on the damage to the liver which is supposed to be produced during the treatment of syphilis; Dr. J. M. McEachren, University of Manitoba, on cholesterol metabolism; Mr. S. Weinstein, University of Saskatchewan, on the oxidation of adrenalin; Dr. A. C. Abbott, University of Manitoba, on the thyroid gland; Professor H. D. Kay, University of Toronto, on experimental ricketts; Professor R. F. Shaner, University of Alberta, on the development of the tracts in the brain of the mammalian embryo; Mr. P. R. Macdonald, McGill University, on the innervation of the lacrymal gland. In addition, a detailed report was received from Dr. F. G. Banting on the work carried out in his department with the aid of funds received from the Banting Research Foundation, which resulted in the publication of eight communications dealing with the pathological changes due to the administration of excessive amount of vitamin D on the intestinal canal during acute intestinal intoxication, and with various methods in analyses required for the work that is being carried on in the department.

V. E. HENDERSON
D. T. FRASER
Honorary Secretaries

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE Tennessee Academy of Science held its fall annual meeting on November 25 and 26 at Vanderbilt University. In the absence of the president, Dr. A. Richard Bliss, Jr., of Memphis, Dr. Louis J. Bircher, vice-president, presided. Sixty-seven members registered and the average attendance of the public was unusually large.

Two morning and two afternoon sessions were well taken up in the reading and discussion of the thirty