

curator at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Mr. Schevill returned in December from an 18-months expedition to Australia, and a preliminary investigation of his findings is now in progress.

The most important discovery, it is believed, is the skeleton of the plesiosaur. It is about two thirds complete, making possible for the first time an accurate reconstruction. Previous finds in Australia have been only fragments. The Harvard specimen is now being prepared for mounting, although it will be some months before it is ready for display.

The remains of various species of *Plesiosaurus* have been found previously in Europe and America, and the present finding of a more complete example of the Australian plesiosaur will make possible important comparisons. The Australian specimen is known as "*Kronosaurus queenslandicus*."

Previous specimens have been found in England, Germany, the United States—New Jersey, Kansas and Wyoming. In some American examples, stones of various sizes, from a quarter of an inch to 4 inches in diameter, were found in the position of the stomach, and are supposed to have been swallowed as aids to digestion. The fossil remains at Harvard are being carefully studied for evidence of similar feeding habits among the Australian species.

Mr. Schevill's find was located on the ranch of R. W. H. Thomas, near Richmond in northwestern Queensland, which was a submerged area during the Cretaceous period. In addition to this skeleton, he has brought back a large number of specimens, including not only fossils but also a series of present-day animals. The entire shipment was made in 95 cases, weighing in all eight tons.

The Australian collection has been made as part of the museum's program of obtaining field specimens from every section of the world. Many of these will be arranged in "systematic collections," showing graphically the history of evolution. The exhibition collections are used as a supplement to text-books by Harvard University students in courses on zoology and paleontology.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOULDER DAM PROJECT AREA

THE Secretary of the Interior, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, on February 15 approved the bills for administration of the Boulder Canyon Project area, introduced by Senator Hayden, of Arizona, and Congressman Arentz, of Nevada. The Secretary says:

Hoover Dam is now under construction and storage of the waters of the Colorado River in the immense reservoir to be created thereby will begin, probably, early in 1935.

This largest artificial reservoir in the world possesses

great recreational and educational possibilities which should be conserved. The bill provides for the efficient and economical accomplishment of the purpose by entrusting this responsibility to the National Park Service, while the Bureau of Reclamation administers the area so far as it has to do with the primary purposes of the original legislation. In this way the building up of duplicating organizations is avoided.

The bill also determines the limits essential to the project and definitely establishes the reservations. It vacates withdrawals heretofore made and restores about 1,400,000 acres to entry.

No claim of exclusive federal jurisdiction is made as to the new reservation and Secretary Wilbur announces that none will be. Accordingly, the laws of Nevada and Arizona, including those as to schools, taxation and elections, will not be disturbed in the new reservation set up by the bill.

As to the smaller federal reservation, heretofore established by order of Secretary Wilbur, at Boulder City, the bill proposes that Nevada shall have full rights of taxation therein after construction of the dam is completed; that Nevada shall immediately have the right, in the Boulder City area, to collect a property tax for school purposes and a mining tax, and to conduct schools.

The Secretary states the department does not propose to submit any estimates of appropriations during the fiscal years 1933 and 1934 for recreational development.

Secretary Wilbur considers the bill very important and urges its enactment at this session of Congress. He says of it:

The bill replaces uncertainty with certainty, solves numerous existing administrative difficulties, makes possible orderly planning for the future and provides fully for the interests of the United States and of adjacent communities as to the development and use of this highly important area.

#### NEW PHARMACOPOEIAL VITAMIN ADVISORY BOARD

THE Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopoeia has announced the appointment of a Pharmacopoeial Vitamin Advisory Board consisting of

- Dr. Lafayette B. Mendel, Yale University.
- Dr. H. C. Sherman, Columbia University.
- Dr. E. M. Nelson, Protein and Nutrition Division, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- E. F. Kelly, Baltimore, Maryland, representing the United States Pharmacopoeia Board of Trustees.
- E. Fullerton Cook, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, representing the United States Pharmacopoeia Committee of Revision.