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.
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> 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.
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> 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.

The appointment of this board has been the outcome of several pharmacopoeial conferences, held in New York during the past year, attended by vitamin experts in the United States, who have recommended a revised standard for the vitamin A and vitamin D potency of the official cod-liver oil. The same group has approved assay methods for both vitamins and these assay methods are proposed for official adoption.

Fifteen vitamin laboratories in the United States, one in London and one in Norway are now determining the vitamin A and vitamin D potency of a special "Reference Cod-Liver Oil," supplied by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. This oil will be available in a few months for distribution by the United States Pharmacopoeial Vitamin Advisory Board. A nominal charge will be made for this "Reference Oil" which will have known vitamin A and vitamin D activity, expressed in International Units. This oil will be distributed through the office of the Chairman of the U. S. P. Vitamin Board to be addressed at 43d Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

LEADERS of science and industry will address the eighty-fifth meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington during the week beginning March 26. Seventeen of the professional divisions of the society, embracing every principal field of chemistry, will hold sessions. The history of chemistry will be traced in exhibits at the Library of Congress.

Researches presented by workers in the Federal Service will bring to the attention of the nation contributions to science made by the government departments. Numerous committees in the District of Columbia are making arrangements for an extensive program of inspection of federal laboratories and scientific services, the aim being to convey knowledge of the development of Washington as one of the great science centers of the world.

Many of the leading industries as well as universities, colleges and other institutions will send representatives. Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the General Electric Company, will give a public address on "Surface Chemistry" in Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, N.W., on Wednesday, March 29, at 8:30 P. M.

The formal sessions will open with a general program on Monday, March 27, following a meeting of the directors of the society, at which Professor Arthur B. Lamb, of Harvard University, president, will preside. Speakers at this general session and their topics will include:

Charles F. Kettering, chief engineer of the General Motors Corporation, Detroit, "The Relation of Chemistry to the Individual"; Harry L. Derby, president of the American Cyanamid Company, New York, "The Relation of Chemistry to the State"; C. M. A. Stine, vice-president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, "The Relation of Chemical to Other Industry"; Professor Hugh S. Taylor, head of the department of chemistry, Princeton University, "Chemistry—its Interrelations with Other Sciences."

Agriculture and food, petroleum, biological chemistry, chemical education, medicinal chemistry, rubber, sugar, dyes, industrial and engineering chemistry, organic, and physical and inorganic chemistry are among the general fields to be covered at sessions of the professional divisions. The Division of Chemical Education, of which Professor Lyman C. Newell, of Boston University, is chairman, plans a symposium on "Recent Developments in Various Chemical Industries." The purpose of this symposium is to acquaint the chemistry teachers of the country with industrial developments.

The Division of Biological Chemistry, of which Professor J. B. Brown, of the Ohio State University, is chairman, will hold a symposium on "Anemia"; the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, headed by Professor H. A. Schuette, of the University of Wisconsin, one on "Insecticides."

The Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, of which Professor D. B. Keyes, of the University of Illinois, is chairman, will hold a symposium on "Glass" in conjunction with the Glass Division of the American Ceramic Society.

The Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, of which Professor W. A. Noyes, Jr., of Brown University, is chairman, will hold six sessions, including a symposium on "Electrolytes," under the chairmanship of Professor Victor K. LaMer, of Columbia University, and a symposium on "Analytical Chemistry," under the chairmanship of Professor N. H. Furman, of Princeton University. The Division of Petroleum Chemistry, headed by F. W. Sullivan, of Whiting, Indiana, is arranging for two sessions, one being devoted to a symposium on "Properties of Hydrocarbon Mixtures." Other divisional meetings are scheduled.

A demonstration of dust explosions has been arranged by the Division of Chemical Engineering, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, for Thursday, March 30, at Arlington Farm. The demonstration, which will be in charge of D. J. Price, will show in miniature what takes place when organic dusts explode under various conditions met in industry and how the hazards from these dusts can be largely minimized.

Special events include a visit to Edgewood Arsenal, called "the chemists' contribution to national defense." There will be a demonstration of chemical warfare weapons by the First Chemical Regiment and of airplane dispersion of smoke by officers of the Air Corps.