

maintain themselves against the eurypterids, might return to the lowlands—and thus appear at last in the fossil record.

I would by no means claim that all the facts of eurypterid and early vertebrate history are to be explained as due to the interrelations of these two groups. It is probable that the eurypterids had other sources of food than that supplied by the vertebrates, and many other factors may have influenced their decline and fall. Nor do I believe that the early steps

in vertebrate evolution are to be explained entirely and simply as related to a defense against eurypterids. But it is impossible to believe that these two groups could have existed in close contact for many millions of years without a considerable influence upon each other. And it is highly probable that many facts regarding the motility, habitat and particularly the skeletal development of the early vertebrates are intimately related to the necessity of escape from eurypterid enemies.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BUCKSTON BROWNE SURGICAL RESEARCH FARM

ACCORDING to the report in the *London Times*, the new Buckston Browne Surgical Research Farm at Down, near Farnborough, was opened on July 12 by Sir Holburt Waring, president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The establishment has been endowed and given to the college, at a total cost of £100,000, by Sir Buckston Browne, R.C.S. It comprises a residential hostel for surgical and biological workers, a separate building containing laboratories and accessory rooms, and 13 acres of grounds.

The estate adjoins that of Down House, where Charles Darwin lived and worked for 40 years and died in 1882. Down House represents another great benefaction of Sir Buckston Browne, by whom, as a tablet there records, it was "acquired, restored, endowed and presented to the British Association as trustee for the nation" five years ago. Sir Buckston Browne attended the opening. Among others present were Sir Arthur Keith, the director of the establishment, Lord and Lady Moynihan, Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton, Sir Charles Sherrington, Professor E. L. Kennaway, Professor G. Grey Turner and Mr. O. J. R. Howarth, secretary of the British Association.

Sir Holburt Waring described the research farm as a magnificent donation in the interests of the advancement of surgery by one of their own profession, and observed that it was to the association of the surgeon with the biologist that they looked for the great advances of surgery in the future. He said that during recent decades surgery had made most of its advances through improved technique and the application of Listerian principles. More recently, however, radiological methods (x-ray and radium), together with biochemical and biophysical processes, had played an increasing and very important rôle in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and in the understanding of the associated biological factors. They hoped to solve these by experimental methods

many of the fundamental problems which beset surgery to-day. It was possible that many might be solved; others would prove exceedingly difficult.

Sir Buckston Browne said that they were assembled upon a remarkable spot. On the other side of the hedge had lived and worked Charles Darwin, the great emancipator of the human mind; this afternoon they had the privilege and joy of bringing here the genius of John Hunter, one of the great emancipators of the human body. One of Hunter's pupils was Edward Jenner, who worked at the prevention and mitigation of smallpox. The world quickly forgot its benefactors and their benefactions, and few even of those present realized the enormous debt they owed to Jenner. Many of them would have been dead long ago had it not been for Edward Jenner; many would have been sitting there with horrible scars. The world nearly lost Lord Lister from smallpox.

He would like to say one word about those who opposed all experimentation on animals. He maintained that the whole of the animal kingdom was as precious to the medical profession as to any other collection of men. Their whole lives were spent in the alleviation of pain and the prolongation of life; and nearly all that was done for man—who was only the head of the animal kingdom—was now done in our veterinary colleges and hospitals.

Sir Arthur Keith thanked the donor of the farm for "the most generous benefaction and the best aid to medicine that has been made in my time."

THE DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN NEW JERSEY

THE Dutch elm disease has broken out anew in the United States. This time it has been found in the state of New Jersey. Sixty-nine infected trees have been found scattered among the elms of an area of perhaps a hundred and fifty square miles in Essex, Hudson and Passaic counties, according to a statement given out by R. Kent Beattie, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who has returned to Washington after investigating the outbreak in New Jersey. The