Carlos, the aforementioned Ensign and Pilot assure me to be the best and freest of shoals that could be desired and so deep that one can come close inshore everywhere with big ships and that there are bars and rivers so that they can go inland, in particular the bay of Pooy where, say the Indians, Governor Hernando de Soto disembarked and on account of its capacity a fleet, and indeed fleets, may enter.)

This was written almost precisely seventy-three years after De Soto landed, and, while I am well aware of the fallibility of Indian tradition when extended over a long period of time, seventy-three years may be spanned by a single life, and the landing happened when the parents of most of the adult Indians in Tampa Bay in 1612 were alive. Moreover, the event must have been of exceptional importance to them, as the first intimate contact they had with representatives of the white race. The conclusion seems inevitable that it was in Tampa Bay that De Soto disembarked his army.

JOHN R. SWANTON
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

AGAIN "WHY DANDELIONS?"

THE recent note in this journal[1] by Emmett Bennett on "Why the Dandelion?" contains some statements which should be commented upon in order that misconceptions may not follow.

It can be agreed that the dandelion leaf clearly excels other commonly used vegetable green leaves in the diet, in protein, fat, carbohydrates, iron and ash. The content of vitamins is only on a par with that of others. Sherman's analyses do not show that the dandelion excels in calcium. My own analyses convince me that it also does not excel in phosphorus, although the results of Sherman and Bennett do point in that direction. The phosphorus content (in which I am particularly interested) is compared in Table 1

TABLE 1
MG PER CENT. OF PHOSPHORUS IN DRY MATTER[2]

	Dandelion	Spinach	Celery	Lettuce	Cabbage
Sherman[3]	1.07	0.55	0.80	0.81	0.34
Bennett[4]	0.51	0.36	.....	0.26	0.28
Youngburg[5]	0.44	0.82	0.74	0.45	0.47

with four other commonly used leaves. This table will also serve to show that there is much variation in analytical figures for leaves. This is most likely due to a real difference in phosphorus content, but also to age and selection of samples and to analytical methods and technique.

On the whole, considering chemical composition, taste, convenience in obtaining by the consumer, cost, etc., I believe that the dandelion is eaten not because its chemical composition is outstanding, but because of the human desire for variety in taste of food and the novelty of picking and preparing the green leaves at no cost.

If the dandelion excelled in taste it would have supplanted spinach, cabbage, lettuce, etc., in our dietary; on the contrary, since it is somewhat inferior in taste, we do not find it on the market; other similar vegetables have become preferred from the beginning and have routed the dandelion except as a novelty.

Perhaps the statement "Our taste is not as fallacious as we sometimes think" is neither affirmed nor denied by the above.

GUY E. YOUNGBURG
UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO
MEDICAL SCHOOL

PROGRESSIVE DEAFNESS

ABOUT 20 per cent. of the cases of progressive deafness, so-called otosclerosis, present an array of neurologic signs. In a definite proportion of these cases the deafness is merely symptomatic of a localizable intracranial lesion, and responds to operative or other therapy directed at the lesion.

In a fairly large per cent. of the cases the scattered nature of the neurologic signs do not permit of localization of the cerebral pathology. These cases present with regularity an abnormal response to the head-neck past-pointing sign described by me in 1929, which has proved to be a reliable index of pressure on the brain-stem.[1]

In recent researches on this latter group of cases there has been brought to light a new and unsuspected type of intracranial lesion giving rise to deafness of the type generally labelled otosclerosis. Encephalograms of such cases generally reveal obstruction of the distribution of the cerebro-spinal fluid in the form of dilatation of one or more cerebral ventricles. In these cases the removal of cerebro-spinal fluid and its replacement by air, as is done in the process of encephalography, has resulted in severe traumatic nervous reaction, followed by marked improvement in hearing and other associated symptoms, such as tinnitus, and in the clearing up of the head-neck past-pointing and other neurologic signs.

Though the exact nature of the pathology of these cases has not yet been determined, it appears probable that it is adhesions of the meninges, with possibly cyst formation, consequent upon injury or disease;

[1] SCIENCE, 80: 142, 1934.
[2] Sherman's figures are calculated from his values on the moist basis.
[3] "Food Products," third edition, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1933.
[4] *Loc. cit.*
[5] Unpublished data.

[1] E. M. Josephson, *Laryngoscope*, January, 1929.