

Searrattia, in compliment to H. S. Searritt, sponsor of the expedition.

ITEMS

NORTHERN INDIA, stricken by disastrous earthquake on May 31, is one of the "most seismic regions in the world," Frank Neumann, seismologist of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, told Science Service. In prehistoric, possibly pre-human, times the most tremendous earthquakes the world has ever known rocked the region, as is evidenced by geological structures still existing. The mountains are still growing, so that earthquakes are still to be expected fairly frequently. A violent earthquake there on August 26, 1931, killed several hundred people. There was another sharp shock, though not fatal in its effects, on June 14, 1934. The location of the epicenter of this earthquake was an unusually difficult matter, because of its remoteness from the reporting seismograph stations. However, the Jesuit Seismological Association, St. Louis, Mo., has calculated a tentative location in latitude 27.3 degrees north, longitude 65.7 degrees west. This is in the mountainous region of eastern Baluchistan, approximately 220 miles in a southeasterly direction from the ruined city of Quetta.

PROFESSOR G. H. PARKER, Harvard University zoologist, held a watch on three different hippopotamuses, in the zoological gardens at Hamburg, Germany, Philadelphia and Washington, respectively, as the huge creatures, immersed in their tanks, came bubbling up at intervals to breathe. He found that the longest time that any of them stayed under was 4 minutes 40 seconds, the shortest time 5 seconds, and the average time 2 minutes 14 seconds. This, he comments, does not come anywhere

near the long breath-holding performances of submerged whales, which are truly aquatic mammals. The hippo is to be classified as an amphibious rather than an aquatic animal. Professor Parker's observations are recorded in detail in the current issue of *The Journal of Mammalogy*.

THE heavy mortality among infants under one year of age is due in large part to inferior quality of the eggs from which these infants started life, Dr. George L. Streeter, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, stated in a lecture delivered under the auspices of the Harvey Society. Experiments with frogs' eggs and pigs' eggs were cited by Dr. Streeter to show how poor quality prevents survival. A baby starting from a poor egg is badly handicapped in the struggle for survival, he pointed out. Many of them can not withstand the hardships of the first year of life and particularly the change in living conditions met at birth. These infant deaths, he said, represent Nature's first sorting of the fit from the unfit.

MAN-EATING sharks have been claiming increasing numbers of victims, recently, along the Australian coast, especially on the beaches of New South Wales, according to Gilbert Whitley in a report to *The Victorian Naturalist*. The number of authentic shark-attack records in the decade 1912-21 was 13; in the decade 1922-31 it jumped to 45, and in the three-year period 1932-34 there were sixteen recorded cases of shark onslaughts. It is believed that the increasing use of bathing beaches is responsible for the rising count of tragedies. Enclosing beaches in netting or "shark fences" is strongly advised, with patrolling from airplanes or "shark towers" where such complete protection is not practicable.

Analytical Determinations with EASTMAN ORGANIC CHEMICALS

POTASSIUM with No. 420 Tartaric Acid—

Bolliger, AUST. J. EXPTL. BIOL. MED. SCI. 12, 75.

VITAMIN C with No. 573 Methylene Blue—

Martini and Bonsignore, BOLL. SOC. ITAL. BIOL. SPER. 9, 338.

HEMOGLOBIN with No. 33 Benzidine—

Letonoff, J. LAB. AND CLIN. MED. 20, 66.

ABSTRACTS of these analytical methods using chemicals taken from Eastman Organic Chemical List No. 26 of nearly 3,000 different compounds will be gladly forwarded upon request.



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