brevity the find will be called in this paper the Los Angeles skull.

In comparing this skull with other female skulls found in America it is seen that in breadth (132 mm) and in basion-bregma height (131 mm) it is rather close to the "Basket Maker" cranium. The height-breadth index of the Los Angeles skull is considerable —99.24; therefore, it should be classified as acrocranial. On account of the damaged state of the Los Angeles skull it can not be measured as to maximum length, but in all probability the skull is dolichocephalic.

The index of the foramen magnum of the Los Angeles cranium is very high—96.7. Thus, although the size of the occipital foramen is small, yet in its shape it is very broad.

The maximum thickness of the walls of the brain case of the Los Angeles cranium is rather considerable —7 mm. In the Calaveras skull it is 8 mm.

Since all the facial skeleton is lacking it is very difficult to conceive clearly the physical type of the individual. The cranium exhibits no striking primitive features which would justify classification of its owner as a lower being. On the contrary, the brain box is decidedly human, and the individual is a representative of our species.

A. O. BOWDEN
IVAN A. LOPATIN
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## FOSSIL LEAVES OF DICOTYLEDONOUS FLOWERING PLANTS

I WISH to make a preliminary announcement in SCIENCE of the discovery of fossil leaves of dicotyledonous flowering plants in formations of the Trinity division of the Comanchean, in Erath County, Texas. The most striking features of these leaves are first, their already highly organized structure, and next, their remarkable variability, no two specimens being closely similar.

The full description of the new finds is being prepared for publication.

O. M. BALL
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

# SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

## GEOGRAPHY OF DISEASE

*A Geography of Disease. A Preliminary Survey of the Incidence and Distribution of Tropical and Other Diseases.* By EARL BALDWIN MCKINLEY, M.D. Published as a Supplement to the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine.* Pp. i + xxv, 1–495. George Washington University Press, Washington, D. C. 1935.

THIS valuable study of the geography of disease was made possible by a grant from the American Leprosy Foundation (formerly the Leonard Wood Memorial) to the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council, and was prepared from collected data by Dr. McKinley, the director of studies, assisted by an advisory committee consisting of Drs. Frederick P. Gay, Richard P. Strong and the late Theobald Smith. In his introductory chapter Dr. McKinley well says that "the geography of disease has never been written and the exact picture of this important subject, of such deep significance to mankind, may never be painted," but this volume certainly adds greatly to our knowledge and is an excellent stepping-stone toward a more complete recording and understanding of the distribution of disease.

In the collection of the data contained in this book, special stress was laid on the geographical distribution of tropical disease, so that the work is of special interest and value to those interested in diseases occurring in warm countries. It is not necessary to emphasize the importance of the geographical distribution of disease, but unfortunately the subject appears to have attracted little attention, and this is the first contribution to it that has appeared in many years. The geographical distribution of disease in each country is considered separately, and valuable tables summarizing disease distribution in each country are given at the end of the section treating of the country in question. It is evident that there is great lack of uniformity and accuracy in the statistics of disease as furnished by the various health departments consulted. This is especially evident regarding the reports of local and state boards of health in this country when compared with the reports of foreign countries, and this book is valuable in that it calls attention to this lack of accuracy in our health statistics. For instance, in the distribution of malaria as reported by various health authorities, it is noted that it is impossible to arrive at any adequate conception of the incidence of the various types of malaria in this country, since only two states, Alabama and Kentucky, furnish any data relative to the respective incidence of tertian, quartan and estivo-autumnal malaria. On the other hand, these data are available for most foreign countries.

The volume contains special chapters upon the most important tropical diseases, malaria being considered by Boyd; bacillary dysentery by Strong; amebiasis by Craig; typhoid fever by Gay; tuberculosis by White; Brucellosis by Evans; dengue fever by Siler; yellow