

year 1939-40. These are designed for continuation training and advanced experience in the clinical fields of medicine, and are divided into separate sections for general practitioners and for specialists. The hospitals affiliated with the School of Medicine are as follows: Bellevue; Hospital for Joint Diseases; Institute

of Ophthalmology; Lenox Hill; Montefiore; Mount Sinai; Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital; Neurological Institute; New York Post-Graduate Medical School; New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital; Presbyterian Hospital; St. Luke's; Welfare Hospital for Chronic Diseases, and Woman's Hospital.

DISCUSSION

THE FOUNDING OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHES IN THE MUSEO POEY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA

FELIPE POEY (1799-1891) was Cuba's greatest naturalist. He was made professor of natural history in the University of Havana in 1830, and in 1839 he was appointed director of the museum in the university. He published rather widely on Cuban natural history, but he is best known by reason of his excellent work on Cuban fishes. His first ichthyological contribution appeared in 1851 and his last in 1883. In the space of these thirty-two years his publications on fishes number nineteen, and of these five were stout volumes. These volumes were issued in fascicles or parts as they were finished and were then gathered into volumes with inclusive titles. If these individual parts could be counted, they would probably treble the number of Poeys's separate contributions. Only by thumbing through his works could the total number of fishes described by him be ascertained. But it is said that he described *de novo* more than 230 species.

Since Poeys's day the study of Cuban fishes has been carried on intermittently by various investigators from various countries. These studies have consisted mainly of descriptions of one or a few species or at best of small collections. Now, however, plans are on foot for extensive and far-reaching studies, which will recall the days of Felipe Poeys. His work is to be taken up and continued by a man who has already written extensively on Cuban fishes and who bids fair to be a worthy successor of Poeys.

The Museum of Zoology (Museo Poeys) of the University of Havana has recently established a department of fishes for the study and preservation of the fishes of the West Indian fauna, and particularly those of the Cuban waters.

The organization and establishment of this department are due to the initiative and activities of Dr. Luis Howell Rivero, professor in the faculty of science. Dr. Rivero was for two years (1934-1936) a fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation doing research work on West Indian fishes at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College and at the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan. He has had the cooperation of his colleague, Dr. Carlos G. Aguayo (also a former Guggenheim fellow), and of Dr. José

M. Cadenas, rector of the University of Havana, who has provided the necessary appropriation for the maintenance of the department.

The first great collections for the establishment of this department are the following accessions:

Fishes obtained by the "Tomas Barrera Expedition" in 1914, under the direction of Dr. Carlos de la Torre, from the University of Havana and of Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the U. S. National Museum.

Fishes obtained by Dr. Rivero in Jamaica in the spring of 1937, during a survey of the fishes of Jamaica done under the auspices of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., the Department of Science and Agriculture of Jamaica and the University of Havana.

Fishes obtained by the "Harvard-Havana Expedition" in the spring of 1938, and by the second expedition, March to May, 1939, under the auspices of Harvard University and the University of Havana, undertaken on board the research vessel *Atlantis*.

Besides, there are several small local collections made by Dr. Rivero, Dr. Aguayo and others, as well as many donations which have been made to the museum.

At the present moment and taking into consideration its very early stage, the department of fishes has over 50 per cent. of the species of the known Cuban fauna represented in its collections, and now that this department is prepared adequately to care for specimens, it is confidently expected that much valuable material will be presented to the Museo.

In this new department of the university, courses of lectures and laboratory work will be given by Dr. Rivero, its founder. In addition opportunities will be afforded graduate students to do research work on fishes under Dr. Rivero's immediate direction. Thus the Museo Poeys of the University of Havana may be expected to become the center of work on the West Indian ichthyological fauna.

CORRESPONDENT

A NOTEWORTHY AURORA

ON the night of August 1, 1937, there occurred an extremely spectacular display of the aurora borealis, visible, no doubt, in many of our northern states and in Canada. I watched it from the Musselshell Valley of central Montana, where I write this, and was so