# SCIENCE

NEW SERIES Vol. 91, No. 2361

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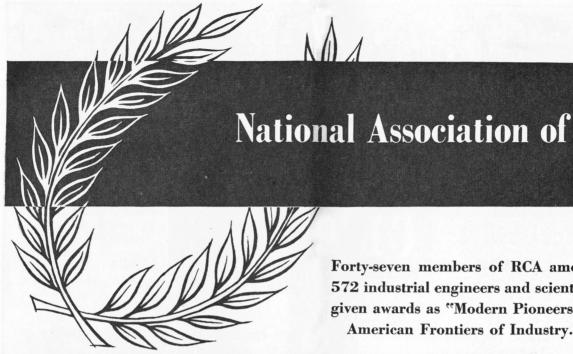
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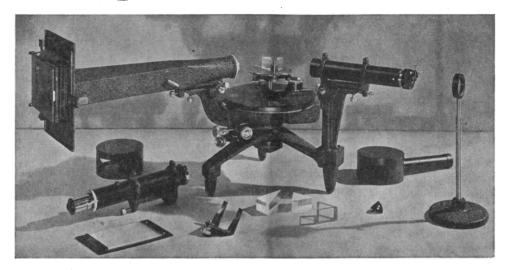
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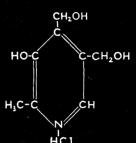
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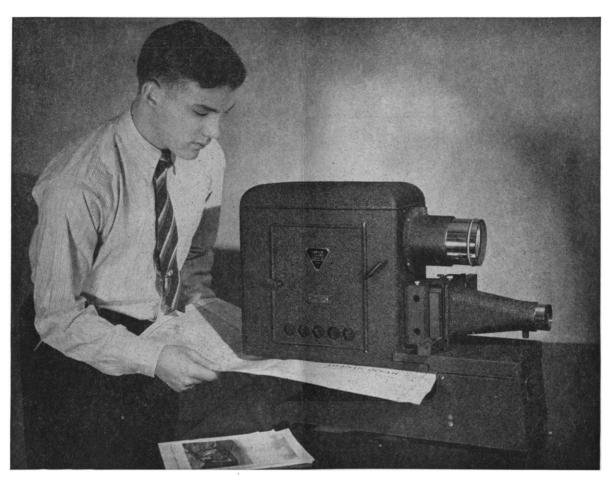
In a paper emanating from the Merck Research Laboratories and published in the April 14, 1939 issue of *Science*, Harris and Folkers announced their success in accomplishing the total synthesis of vitamin B<sub>6</sub>.

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James. Naturalists BERT M. REESE Reports: The New Internation	y: Professor Preston E. s in South America: Dr. Al-		New York City: Grand Lancaster, Pa.  Annual Subscription, \$6.00  SCIENCE is the official orgation for the Advancement of Sing membership in the Associate office of the permanent sellnstitution Building, Washington	Garrison, N. Y. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

#### EPISODES AND PERSONALITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGY AT BROWN<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. A. D. MEAD

BROWN UNIVERSITY

In the diamond jubilee number of the Atlantic Monthly, issued in November, 1932, seventeen articles selected from the 900 monthly issues of the Atlantic were reprinted. One of them was Dallas Lore Sharp's famous paper on "Turtle Eggs for Agassiz" (1910), which already had been reprinted many times and which, incidentally, has been read by Dr. Walter to his class in comparative anatomy in Brown every year for a quarter of a century. Now this touches my subject at several points: The hero of the episode was J. W. P. Jenks, the first teacher of zoology at Brown. Jenks was a lifelong disciple of Agassiz and widely disseminated his doctrines at Brown and elsewhere. Sharp was a student at Brown (1895) and a special

<sup>1</sup> Address at the dinner of the National Academy of Sciences, Brown University, October 24, 1939.

protégé of Professor Jenks, from whom, while at Brown, he got the tale about the turtle eggs. Again, Sharp's own colorful career at Brown, if as adequately written up, would win a place in literature. And finally, his introduction to the turtle egg paper provides the theme, which is at least implied, of this post-prandial talk, namely, that the progress of a science in a period of years, like a game of golf in an afternoon, is not completely recorded in the mere enumeration of the end results and the scores, but that personalities and minor dramatic incidents are a vital and substantial part of the story.

Sharp found the clue to his story in Agassiz's four volumes of "Contributions to the Natural History of the United States." "The volumes," he said, were "massive, heavy, weathered as if dug from the rocks,"

For the composition of the trichrome stain the reader is referred to Foot's description.<sup>2</sup> The only modifications found desirable in adapting this stain to the vaginal smear were an increase in staining time with light green to 8 minutes and a reduction in the strength of acetic acid from the original 1 per cent. to 0.25 per cent. The acetic acid solution is made up fresh weekly. The other solutions will, with an occasional filtration to keep them clear, stain 1,200 to 1,500 slides satisfactorily. The exact procedure of staining is as follows:

- Fix slide while wet in 95 per cent. alcohol: ether
   and carry through alcohols to water.
- (2) Harris hematoxylin—2 minutes.
- (3) Rinse 3-4 times in water and let stand 5 minutes in running water.
- (4) Ponceau-acid fuchsin-orange G—5 minutes. Rinse 3-4 times in water.
- (5) Phosphotungstic acid (3 per cent.)—10 minutes. Rinse 3–4 times in water.
- (6) Light green-8 minutes. Do not wash.
- (7) Acetic acid (0.25 per cent.)—3 minutes. Do not wash.
- (8) Dehydrate, clear in xylol, and mount in damar.

Analysis of the action of individual components indicates the possibility of some simplification of the stain. Ponceau de xylidene, acid fuchsin and orange G were all taken up by the cornified cells and contributed to their final color. The most satisfactory staining of the cornified cells, using these dyes separately, was obtained with Ponceau de xylidene. Orange G is, however, desirable because of its staining of red cells. Phosphotungstic acid is essential because of its action as a mordant in fixing and intensifying the color produced by the preceding solution. Light green acts as a counterstain for the non-cornified cells. When used alone it will stain cornified cells a more intense green, but is unable to displace the other dyes once they have entered the cell. The staining with hematoxylin can be omitted, the nuclei then taking a red stain. Dioxane can be used instead of the alcohols as with tissue.

A more detailed description of the nuances of morphology and color revealed by this stain in smears from various normal and pathological states will be given elsewhere.

EPHRAIM SHORR

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, CORNELL
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE, NEW
YORK, N. Y.

#### A RUBBER CAST OF THE DOGFISH SPIRAL VALVE

THE spiral valve of the dogfish is a feature of most courses in comparative anatomy. It is difficult to

2 Amer. Jour. Path., 14: 245, 1938.

visualize the spiral course taken by the food, and the large absorbing surface of the intestine is seldom appreciated. The structure and function of the spiral valve is well demonstrated by a rubber cast, which takes but a few minutes to make. The intestine from pylorus to rectal gland is removed from a fresh or formalin-preserved dogfish. The pyloric end is attached to a faucet and the contents completely flushed out by a slow but positive stream of water. This process is aided by gentle manipulation, and should be continued until the water is clear. After removal from the faucet the intestine is carefully squeezed to remove as much water as possible, and latex1 is injected through the pyloric end under about 200 mm pressure. The large intestine should be tied off when latex flows out, and gentle manipulation assists the even distribution of the latex, mixing it completely with the water remaining inside. When the intestine is thoroughly turgid, the pylorus is tied off under pressure and the whole preparation hardened in 2 per cent. acetic acid for ten days. It is a simple matter to dissect away the tissue from around and between the flexible spirals, leaving a rubber cast of the interior of the intestine. The quality of the rubber improves if the cast is washed for a few hours in tap water and allowed to dry at room temperature for a day or two. The spiral may then be stretched, twisted or even unrolled without becoming permanently deformed, and is a striking demonstration specimen.

K. D. ROEDER

TUFTS COLLEGE

<sup>1</sup> Turtox Latex supplied by The General Biological Supply House.

#### **BOOKS RECEIVED**

ATWOOD, WILLIAM H. Introduction to Vertebrate Zoology. Pp. 511. 264 figures. Mosby.

CHILD, ERNEST. The Tools of the Chemist, Their Ancestry and American Evolution. Pp. 220. Illustrated. Reinhold. \$3.50.

HAMBLY, WILFRID D. Craniometry of New Guinea; Anthropological Series: Vol. 25, No. 3. Pp. 83-290. 26 figures. 43 plates. Field Museum. \$2.50.

26 figures. 43 plates. Field Museum. \$2.50.

Kyoto Imperial University; Memoirs of the College of Science; Series A, May, 1939. Pp. 41-223. Illustrated. Yen 3.80. July, 1939. Pp. 225-267. Illustrated. Yen 1.00. September, 1939, Pp. 269-356. Yen 1.00. Maruzen, Tokyo.

Myrdal, Gunnar. Population, a Problem for Democracy.
The Godkin Lectures, 1938. Pp. xii+237. Harvard Univ. Press. \$2.00.

O'BRIEN, T. P. The Prehistory of Uganda Protectorate. Pp. xii+319. 56 figures. 26 plates. Cambridge University Press, Macmillan. \$7.50.

SVEDBERG, THE and KAI O. PEDERSEN. The Ultracentrifuge. Pp. x + 478. 154 figures. Oxford Univ. Press. \$12.50.

WILLIAMSON, ROBERT W. RALPH PIDDINGTON, editor.

Essays in Polynesian Ethnology. Pp. xlii + 373. 10
plates. Cambridge Univ. Press, Macmillan. \$7.00.

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In this book the authors give a unified, comprehensive treatment of photography, covering thoroughly and accurately every aspect of the process, from optics, lenses, cameras, exposure, development, etc., to scientific and pictorial photography. The manual section of the book gives working directions for a variety of specialized operations, including lens testing, the use of polarizing discs, sensitometry, color photography, etc. Throughout, details are considered as special examples of the general principles outlined, in order that the student may be prepared to cope with new problems as they arise.

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## INTRODUCTION TO VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

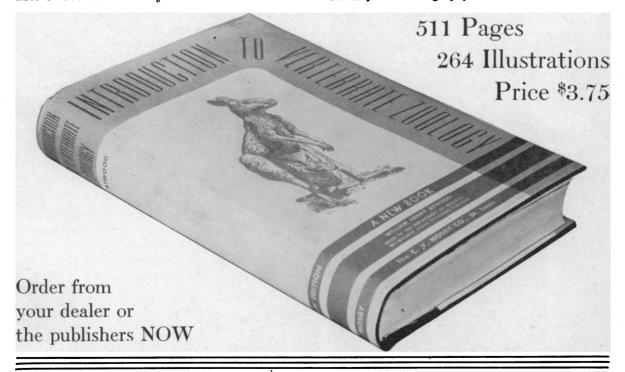
#### By WILLIAM HENRY ATWOOD

Head of the Department of Biology, Milwaukee State Teachers College

Throughout the selecting, assembling and writing of the materials of this textbook the possibilities of its use in three types of courses have been constantly kept in mind. 1. Primarily it is a text in vertebrate zoology, and as such may be used in a semester course devoted exclusively to that subject. 2. In general zoology courses where invertebrates are studied the first semester and the vertebrates the second semester this text should be valuable. 3. In vertebrate anatomy courses where two or three types are dissected, this text with the lectures should provide a valuable orientation of subject matter.

The core of the subject matter of this text is a combination of the classification and anatomy of the vertebrates reinforced by sufficient other zoological material to give it life. Coverage is as follows:

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