drawn and should the necessary funds be obtained, the new quarters would relieve congestion in a large part of the educational buildings on the eastern side of the institute. Attention was called to the need for new biological laboratories and the opportunities that could be realized by an increase in research funds of $200,000 a year or more.

Dr. Compton also pointed out that the large waiting list is evidence of the need of an additional dormitory unit, which could be immediately filled.

ACQUIREMENT BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY OF A DEPOSIT OF FOSSILS IN NORTHERN FLORIDA

DR. THOMAS BARBOUR, director of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, announces that a rich deposit of fossils in Gilchrist County, northern Florida, dating back some 18,000,000 years to the Miocene era, has been purchased by Harvard University for research purposes. The deposit, on a forty-acre farm site, contains the only reasonably complete store of Miocene fossils so far reported in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. In preliminary excavations, Dr. Barbour and members of the museum staff found remains of several primitive horses, camels, dogs and rhinoceros. The deposit is expected to give the first good picture of land-life on the eastern seaboard during the Miocene period. All other eastern Miocene deposits are primarily of marine life.

Dr. Theodore E. White, of the museum staff, will work at the site this winter under a grant from the Milton Fund of Harvard University. Several years of excavation will be required to piece together the picture of the fauna as found in the fossil bones.

Fragments from the deposit have been on exhibit for some years at the museum of the Florida Geological Survey. These were seen several years ago by Dr. Barbour, who, with the aid of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Schevill, of the museum, located the site and made preliminary excavations. Last winter Drs. Barbour and White excavated for a longer period, finding some complete skulls and long bones. The specimens found at the end of the work last winter were better preserved than those found earlier, and it is probable that further digging will disclose material still better preserved.

EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS AND MOSQUITOES

EVIDENCE as to the guilt or innocence of mosquitoes in transmitting equine encephalomyelitis will be analyzed at the eleventh annual Conference of Mosquito Abatement Officials in California, to be held at the University of California at Berkeley, on December 16.

Speakers and their subjects, announced by S. F. Dommes, Jr., secretary, are as follows:

Epidemiology and Distribution of Human Cases, Dr. H. L. Wynns, chief, Bureau of Epidemiology, California State Department of Public Health.

Distribution of Cases in Horses and the Economic Importance of Equine Encephalomyelitis in Horses, Dr. C. U. Duckworth, administrator, Division of Animal Industry, California State Department of Agriculture.

Relationship of Distribution of Cases and Mosquitoes, Thomas H. G. Aitken, University of California.

Investigations of Equine Encephalomyelitis in Kern County, Dr. W. C. Buss, epidemiologist, Kern County Health Department.

Present Information on Experimental Transmission of Equine Encephalomyelitis by Mosquitoes, Dr. Malcolm H. Merrill, California State Department of Public Health.

Professor W. B. Herms, head of the Division of Entomology and Parasitology of the University of California, will introduce the symposium, and a summary of the discussion is to be presented by Dr. Bertram P. Brown, director of the California State Department of Public Health.

Representatives from twenty-five mosquito abatement districts and from health departments and universities in California ordinarily attend the conference. This year, invitations have also been sent to state universities and health departments in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

Methods of organizing mosquito abatement districts, experiences in mosquito control as a health department function and various operating problems will also be considered at the conference. William Reeves, a graduate entomologist at the University of California, will report on research on the Pacific Coast "tree-hole" mosquito, *Aedes varipalpus.*

THE ROLE OF DENTISTS IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

THE American Dental Association at its recent meeting in Cleveland used as a general theme the national defense and the special role of the dental profession in it. A nation-wide dental health census, conducted by the Committee on Economics, indicated that "the nation, from a dental standpoint, is woefully unprepared to meet the exacting requirements in industry and the military services in a time of possible national emergency." Although the data from this survey have not been entirely worked over, Dr. R. M. Walls, chairman of the Committee on Economics, told the House of Delegates of the association that "after careful consideration of the figures now available, we must face the fact that an immediate effort must be made by dentistry to meet a situation which may have a serious effect on the whole defense program."

Because of the national condition thus indicated, and drawing on experience in the last war concerning