

at present testing other substances which might take the place of Canada balsam and do not have the disadvantage of the latter.

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ADENOSINETRIPHOSPHATASE

OUR experiments corroborate the results of W. A. Engelhardt and M. N. Ljubimova¹ according to which Adenosinetriphosphatase is bound to myosine. The enzyme is activated by Ca; Ca can be substituted by other bivalent metals.

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ANOTHER AVIVOROUS ANGLER OR GOOSEFISH

WHILE collecting (November 3, 1940) with a group of graduate students at Jamestown Beach near the mouth of Narragansett Bay, we found an angler fish (*Lophius piscatorius*) about three feet in length stranded high up on the beach, dead but in perfectly fresh condition. The previous day had been stormy, with a strong southeast wind, and since this beach is at the head of a small narrowed inlet opening toward the southeast, it had doubtless been subjected to a heavy surf on the preceding day.

This remarkable fish—the striking characteristics of which are a very broad flattened head; a rapidly narrowed, almost triangular, scaleless body with pectoral fins borne upon stout fleshy peduncles and pelvic fins superficially resembling the legs of a short-legged amphibian rather than fins of a fish; and last but not

least, an enormous mouth furnished with pointed teeth hinged to bend inward (but not outward) and with a lure at the end of one of the barbels on the front of the head—is obviously an inhabitant of the bottom. However, it makes excursions to the surface, as some of its food items attest, specimens having been previously found to contain wooden lobster pot floats and other objects, including, besides fish, gulls, ducks, etc., and even to attempt, at least, to engulf geese and loons.

The present specimen contained a solid lump which upon examination proved to be a herring gull, normal in appearance except for somewhat moistened feathers. There was no evidence of air contained in the stomach or any suggestion, other than a heavy surf, of the cause of this angler becoming stranded.

While several records of the angler feeding upon birds are known,¹ few of these are American records, and it seems of interest to record this finding.

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POOR DELIVERY OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

I MOST heartily concur in all that Frances H. Allen says, in *SCIENCE* for January 3, about the poor delivery of many papers at scientific meetings.

At the recent Philadelphia meetings I left one symposium after failing to hear the first three speakers; and an entire evening was spoiled because a very prominent scientist, who gave one of the public lectures, could not be followed by those seated back of the middle of a moderately large auditorium.

The local arrangements, at least for the American Society of Zoologists, left nothing to be desired, but I felt that a considerable part of my time had been wasted for the reason mentioned above.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS¹

THE symposium on "The Scientist and American Democracy" was the first effort on the part of the American Association of Scientific Workers to present before a large nation-wide gathering of scientists an evaluation of some phases of the interrelations between science and our democratic society. The two, well-attended sessions were presided over by Professors R. W. Gerard and A. H. Compton, and a number of outstanding American scientists gave papers dealing with four main themes.

¹ *Nature*, 144: 668, 1939.

¹ Report on the symposium "The Scientist and American Democracy," held on December 27 and 28, 1940.

In the introductory papers of the sessions Professors A. J. Carlson and Kirtley F. Mather discussed the scientist's concept of and his citizenly duties toward our democracy. The body of the first session was an evaluation of the scientist's relation to the material base of our technological civilization. Professor A. C. Lane summarized the implications of the scientific utilization of raw materials, Dr. C. E. Kellogg, using examples from agricultural problems, discussed the rôle which the scientist plays in determining policy in a democratic state, and Professor Walter Rautenstrauch presented a fundamental and searching analysis of our industrial and productive organization.

The body of the second session dealt with two

¹ Gudger, 1929, *Natural History*, Vol. 29, p. 155.