transactions, proceedings, etc., but not books, which are listed separately in six or eight Supplements per year, and are classified in 44 groups which vary only slightly from those in the *Current List*.

The articles in the periodicals or journals are listed as they appear in the respective journals; that is, the journal itself, or the group of articles in a particular number of the journal, is classified under one of the 44 subjects shown above. This is the quick way to handle the classification, and perhaps it was felt that until more funds were available it was the practical way. But it is too rough a grouping to be serviceable. Unless a way is found to classify the individual titles of the articles, and not the titles of the journals, the *Current List* will fail to accomplish its purpose.

For example, one finds, in volume 1, no. 6, column 218, "An improved method of applying insecticidal dusts" under the heading of Anthropology, Ethnology. Obviously it was intended to place this title under Entomology, but the classifier misread the title of the journal in which the article appears. See also on the same page, "Weltkreig und Bevolkerungspolitik" under Bacteriology, Microbiology. "Vitamin K in obstetrics," in the same number of the index, column 255, is classified under Societies, Miscellaneous, whereas one might have expected to find it under the thirteenth class, or group, Gynecology, Obstetrics, etc., etc. Such carelessness reflects badly upon the excellent classification found in the *Index Catalogue*.

For a list of the journals received by the Army Medical Library, see the booklet issued by the library in September, 1940: "Medicofilm Service of the Army Medical Library; its purposes and plan of operation, together with a list of more than 4,000 abbreviated titles of medical periodicals currently received by this library."

One of the most valuable aspects of the *Current List* is the microfilming service which it offers. Persons and libraries will, of course, use their nearest medical library having a microfilm camera and other adequate equipment to secure copies of desired articles in the journals, having found the articles by means of the *Current List*. But, in many cases, it will be desirable to use Medicofilm Service, which will send 35 mm microfilms at the rate of 30 cents for articles of 30 pages or less, and 10 cents for each additional 10 pages or fraction. This, of course, is a low price, as compared with the charges of some of the other microfilm services. Medicofilm Service does not state in the booklet referred to above whether 16 mm films are available.

Unfortunately, Medicofilm Service states (v. 1, Supplement 1) that as a rule it does not reproduce recent books or theses or parts of books, "because this is an infringement of the Copyright Law." . . . This may or may not be a correct interpretation of the law. Why should it not likewise be an infringement to film copyrighted matter in the journals? Also, microfilm copies do not violate the spirit of the copyright act any more than does an interlibrary loan.

Actually, this problem of copyright and microfilming is unsolved. No one knows the answer, but, meanwhile, the principal microfilm laboratories are proceeding to photograph practically anything desired for scholarly purposes, regardless of date or medium—journal, book, or manuscript. The publishers of the journals and books seem more likely to profit than to suffer by this circulation of selected articles or chapters. One hopes that the Carnegie Corporation's proposed report on this subject, now being prepared by a New York City law firm, will remove any such restraint as that which now limits Medicofilm Service.

The Supplements to the *Current List*, referred to above, are of little value, or, rather, are of much less value than they might be if they were classified lists of important new books in the 44 fields of medicine covered by these Supplements. Indeed, one might well expect the Army Medical Library to produce regular classified and annotated lists of new books in all fields of medicine.

Instead, these Supplements are no more than partial lists of recent accessions by the library, many of which books listed are not even remotely concerned with any aspect of medicine. Only those publications for which author cards have been prepared by the library staff, and only those theses which contain 50 or more pages, are listed. Also, the books and theses may be old or new. Their recent accession is the principal reason, the criterion, for entering them in the list—information which can be of very little interest or usefulness to any one.

But, in their own ingenious way, the friends of the Army Medical Library have stumbled upon the most useful kind of index in the field—a weekly classified list of all titles in the principal medical journals of the world; an index published at less than 10 cents per copy. Except for its weird cataloguing, or classifying—which can easily be corrected, the *Current List* is unique and invaluable, and ought to be followed, as said above, by numerous other similar indexes in the sundry fields of science, and perhaps in other fields of current literature; as the social sciences and the humanities, for example.

JOE HARE

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YOUNG SAILFISH

A STUDY of young Pacific sailfish, *Istiophorus greyi*, has been completed, dealing with individuals which I took alive on the Eastern Pacific Zaca Expedition (1937–1938) of the New York Zoological Society.

Both were netted at night lights, one of 84 mm standard length, off Mexico on the night of November 23, 1937, and the other, only 42 mm in length, 1,200 miles farther south, off Costa Rica, on March 1, 1938. These have been compared with equally young Florida sailfish, *Istiophorus americanus,* and with adults of both species.

The study is based on observation of the living and recently dead fish, and on normally preserved as well as stained and cleared specimens. It will appear in a forthcoming number of *Zoologica,* the scientific publication of the Zoological Society.

An interesting feature of the young sailfish, evident at first glance, is that in spite of their diminutive size, they are superficially very much like the full-grown fish. The greatly elongated upper jaw and pelvic fins, the enormous expanse of dorsal fin are as characteristic of the 42 mm specimen as they are of the adult, more than 60 times as long.

When, however, there is added to these externals of the normal, opaque fish, the skeleton and other internal structures, there is found little or no hint of the radical changes to come. These young fish are well balanced, efficiently functioning organisms in their own right. Like most fish they are covered with scales, their jaws are filled with teeth of ordinary pattern, and their two specialized fins seem to impose no unusual activities or habits.

There is no suggestion of the subsequent disappearance of the armor of scales, and their replacement with minute, mucous-canal guards and bony scutes. Without ever having seen the full-grown fish, one would never know that the teeth would all fall out, with the substitution of innumerable sharp and strong dermal denticles covering the whole sword.

The entire head and body will undergo vital changes, together with this radical alteration in the dental armature of the snout, and the consequent shift from a prehensile snapping to a slashing method of attack and feeding. A mobile, twisting body will alter to a stiffened, recoil-guarded handle to the great sword; the parethmoid and other regions of the skull, the vertebrae and caudal complex, the fin bases, the pectoral arch—all will witness an ontologically swift and thorough thickening and extension of ossification. All joints will be stiffened until the whole becomes a taut, tense spring, an organic engine to generate and direct the terrific ramming, hitting and slashing power of the solidly denticled sword.

In the young fish all this excess of bone formation is held in abeyance, adumbrated only, so that the toothed, scaled, prehensile stage of development may function as perfectly as though it would persist throughout the entire lifetime of the fish.

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A SUBMERGED MIGRATION ROUTE

BOTANISTS and others have been interested in the presence of southern plants in southeastern Canada and New England. Explanations involve the possibility of a former pathway of migration along the coast, now submerged.

Recently, through the kindness of Mr. George B. Sowers, of Cleveland, the Oberlin Botanical Laboratory has had the opportunity to study two specimens of peat obtained by a contractor working at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. One specimen, an ooze peat deposited under water, was reported to come from 60 feet below the present water-level; the other, a fibrous superficial peat, from a depth of about 40 feet below the present surface. The lowest deposit is described as being overlaid by gravel and underlaid by about 60 feet of clay resting on bed rock. The deposit is said to be continuous and quite extensive along Long Island. Because the samples were obtained in the course of commercial construction work, some difficulty has been experienced in getting the precise relationship of the two specimens examined.

Both, however, have essentially similar pollen spectrums in which deciduous forest pollen predominates, particularly oak and beech. This indicates quite clearly that at the time the peat was formed, deciduous forest conditions prevailed on the then exposed but now submerged surface, presumably affording an opportunity for the northward migration of plants appropriate to deciduous forest conditions.

The pollen examined appears to be slightly less fresh than that in most post-Wisconsin bogs that I have examined but is well preserved. Hickory is present in the lower sample but absent in the upper. Grass and composites are more abundant in the lower; pine more abundant in the upper one and hemlock is present. No hemlock has been found in the lower specimen. This would suggest that the lower specimen was deposited under somewhat more continental conditions than the upper if our information is correct as to the relative depths. Publication of the spectra will be made after further efforts to secure more precise information regarding the stratigraphy.

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THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION TO THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA

SCIENCE for June 20 contains, on page 597, a review by Dr. Charles A. Kofoid of "History of Pharmacy" by Edward Kremers and George Urdang. In this review the following statement is made: "The seventh edition (1862) [of the United States Pharmacopoeia] was the first to be issued under the direct auspices of the American Pharmaceutical Association.