agricultural, grazing, forest, recreational and wildlife lands. Each statement outlines the general objectives of the program of land conservation, development and economic use in the field covered, indicates the types of public works which contribute toward accomplishment of this program and sets forth certain standards for evaluating individual works projects of various types.

## THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

CHARGES that the University of Illinois had deteriorated during the past eight years as the result of political activity by the board of trustees resulted in action by the board at its June, 1942, meeting inviting the American Council on Education and the American Medical Association to investigate the university. The American Council on Education has not yet reported, but the American Medical Association has submitted an elaborate report after an exhaustive study of the College of Medicine. According to this report,

> the College of Medicine is an integral part of the University of Illinois, a state-owned institution, controlled by an elected board of trustees, of which Dr. Karl Meyer, Chicago, is president. There is apparently being effected a rather progressive reorganization of the curriculum which promises much more satisfactory clinical training during the third and fourth years than was possible at the time of the last visit (1935). Members of the faculty, both preclinical and clinical, are in general outstanding and competent men who appear to be greatly interested in teaching, and it would appear that the heads of practically all the clinical departments recognize the need for additional clinical facilities under their immediate supervision.
>
> There is being developed in connection with the dental, medical and pharmacy schools, correlated, cooperative and even integrated teaching programs. The school is to be commended for undertaking this interesting experiment which should be a real contribution to professional education.
>
> Further developments are currently being effected or studied and these promise to offer unusual opportunities in the fields of both undergraduate and graduate medical education.
>
> The physical plant for the preclinical departments is apparently satisfactory, and the departments of pathology and bacteriology which were very unsatisfactorily housed at the time of the previous visit now have satisfactory quarters.

Dr. Raymond B. Allen, executive dean of the three Chicago colleges of the University of Illinois, is reported to have said:

> In no important particular has the report brought forth any facts or conclusions about which the university has been unaware or about which something has not or is not being done. Many of the suggestions for further improvement must await sufficient financial aid. Nevertheless, it is invaluable to have outside agencies express their unbiased, informed judgment as exemplified in this report.

## THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

A SPECIAL war program for the Semi-Centennial graduation exercises of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, was held on December 18. At the morning session Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, dean and vice-president, welcomed those in attendance with a discussion on the medical responsibilities of war. Dr. E. H. Cary, professor of oto-rhino-laryngology at the Baylor University Medical School, Dallas, past-president of the American Medical Association, spoke on "The Role of the Specialist in Military Medicine," and Dr. I. S. Ravdin, Lieutenant Colonel, M.C., professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, gave an address entitled "A New Era in Military Surgery." At the afternoon session, Dr. C. C. Sturgis, professor of medicine at the University of Michigan, discussed blood and substitutes in shock. A survey of wound healing was given by Dr. Alton Ochsner, professor of surgery at the Medical School of Tulane University. Dr. F. G. Ebaugh, Lieutenant Colonel, M.C., professor of psychiatry at the Medical School of the University of Colorado, spoke on "Psychiatry and War." The scientific session was concluded by a consideration of "Obstacles in the Path of an Optimum Diet," by Dr. A. J. Carlson, Hixson distinguished service professor of physiology of the University of Chicago. At the graduation exercises in the evening, Dr. Judson L. Taylor, Lieutenant Commander, M.C., president of the Texas State Medical Association, will give the address. Honor guests on the occasion will be Dr. Edward Randall, professor of therapeutics emeritus, and Dr. Seth M. Morris, professor of ophthalmology emeritus, who are two living members from the original faculty of the school.

# SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

IGOR I. SIKORSKY was presented on December 7 with the Sylvanus Albert Reed Award for 1942 of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences. It carries an honorarium of $250 and is made annually for "a notable contribution to the aeronautical sciences whose practical value is apparent." The award was made in recognition of work on "the creation and reduction to successful practice of a helicopter of superior controllability." The presentation was made on the same occasion as the delivery by Edmund D. Allen of the

sixth annual Wright Brothers Lecture at Columbia University, which provides the sum of $250 for the lecturer.

THE American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association presented its annual award of distinction on December 7 to Dr. Edward A. Doisy, of St. Louis University, "in recognition of his isolation in pure form of the female sex hormone estrone (theelin) and his other valuable contributions to knowledge of estrogenic substances important in therapy and research." Dr. Torald S. Sollmann, dean and professor of pharmacology and materia medica at the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University and chairman of the council of pharmacy and chemistry of the American Medical Association, made the presentation address. It was entitled "Those Busy Hormones." Other speakers and their subjects were: Dr. George R. Cowgill, associate professor of physiological chemistry at the School of Medicine of Yale University, hormone developments; Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., hormone therapy, and Dr. Ephraim Shorr, associate professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College, the future of hormone therapy. Dr. Doisy, in reply, gave a brief history of his experiments.

DURING the convocation of the University of Chicago, Katharine Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, was presented with the Rosenberger Medal "for notably great service in the promotion of human welfare."

THE Council of the British Royal Meteorological Society has awarded the Buchan Prize for 1943 to Dr. T. E. W. Schumann and Gordon Manley.

DR. GEORGE D. STODDARD, Commissioner of Education of the State of New York, previously dean of the Graduate College and director of the Child Welfare Station of the State University of Iowa, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws at the commencement exercises on December 13 of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where he delivered the Phi Beta Kappa address.

DR. LEWIS SELKIRK COONLEY, associate professor of chemical engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been made chairman of the department. He succeeds Dr. Albert Watson Davison, who has been named director of research for the Owens-Corning Fibreglas Corporation.

SIR J. DONALD POLLOCK, Bt., M.D., has been reelected rector of the University of Edinburgh.

DR. THOMAS T. READ, Vinton professor of mining engineering at Columbia University, has been appointed consultant in the education and allocation of engineers in the office of the director of operations of the War Manpower Commission.

DR. JOHN G. BROUGHTON, of Rome, N. Y., has been appointed to the newly established position of assistant state geologist of New York.

DR. NORBERT FELL, who joined the Research Staff of Parke, Davis and Company in 1936 as a biochemist and subsequently developed a research division devoted to immunochemistry, has been promoted to the position of director of the department of biological manufacturing.

DR. HERALD R. COX, formerly principal bacteriologist of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service, Hamilton, Mont., has joined the staff of the Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N. Y., as associate director of research in charge of virus and rickettsial diseases.

LORD ONSLOW has resigned the presidency of the Zoological Society, London, for reasons of health, and Henry Gascoyen Maurice has been elected president until next April.

THE Earl of Moray and J. M. Bannerman have been appointed members of the British Forestry Commission in succession to Sir John Sutherland, who has submitted his resignation.

A COMMITTEE under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry Lewis Guy, engineer of the mechanical department of the Vickers Company, was recently appointed by the British Minister of Supply to review machinery for the conduct of research, design and experimental work in connection with the development of guns, small arms and ammunition. As a result of the committee's recommendations, the Minister of Supply has appointed Professor John Edward Lennard-Jones, F.R.S., Plummer professor of theoretical chemistry at the University of Cambridge, to be chief superintendent of armament research, and F. E. Smith, of Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, to the post of chief engineer and superintendent of armament design.

DR. H. S. SOUTTAR, chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association and chairman of the Central Medical War Committee, has been made chairman of a mission to report on the medical services for the armed forces in India. During his absence Professor R. M. F. Picken has been appointed acting chairman of council.

DR. WALTER PATRICK, professor of physical chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University, gave on December 11 the annual Alpha Chi Sigma lecture in chemistry at Syracuse University. The lectureship was established with the purpose of bringing back

to the university each year a distinguished alumnus in chemistry. Dr. Patrick spoke on "The Hydration of Ions."

DR. CAREY CRONEIS, professor of geology at the University of Chicago, during the interim between November 27 and December 7 addressed the local geological societies at Centralia, Ill.; Wichita, Kans.; Tulsa, Okla.; Dallas, Ft. Worth, Midland, San Antonio and Houston, Texas; and Shreveport, La., on "Geological Warfare," as a part of the distinguished lecture program of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

DR. WILLIAM CRAMER, of the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, St. Louis, delivered on December 2, at the University of Missouri, a lecture on "Cancer as a Biological Problem" at a meeting of the Missouri Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi.

ON October 27, Dr. Hilton A. Smith, professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee, addressed the Sigma Xi Club of the University of Tennessee and the East Tennessee Branch of the American Chemical Society on "Catalytic Hydrogenation." On December 1, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, nutrition chemist at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Tennessee, spoke on "Phosphate Nutrition Research."

PROFESSOR A. H. REGINALD BULLER, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Manitoba, recently gave two public lectures at Cornell University on the Jacob H. Schiff Foundation. The subjects of the lectures were "The Sexual Process in the Rust Fungi (Uredinales)" and "Recent Discoveries Concerning the Bird's Nest Fungi (Nidulariaceae)."

A DINNER in honor of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prizes, who died in 1896, was held in New York on December 10. The speakers included Pearl Buck, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Thomas Mann and Norman Angell.

IT is announced that by vote of the executive committee, the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology, which includes the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Experimental Pathology, the American Institute of Nutrition and the American Society of Immunologists, will omit the meeting which was scheduled to be held in Cleveland from April 6 to 10, 1943. This action applies only to the federation as such and does not cover any meetings which may be organized by the constituent societies. It is further announced that provision will be made for publication in the Federation Proceedings of abstracts of such papers as would have been offered for presentation if a federation meeting had been held or which may be offered for presentation at meetings of the constituent societies. These abstracts will be received by the secretaries of the constituent societies in the customary manner according to notices to be sent to the memberships.

THE annual meeting of the American Association of University Professors, scheduled for December 28 and 29 in Cleveland, Ohio, has been cancelled. This action was taken in compliance with a request from the Office of Defense Transportation. Election of council members and voting on pending constitutional amendments will be conducted by mail. Ballots for this purpose will be sent to members early in January.

*The Experiment Station Record* reports that the Kansas State College Research Foundation has been organized, with President F. D. Farrell as chairman of a board of nine directors. Its charter is said to follow closely those of like organizations at a number of land-grant institutions.

DR. E. D. MERRILL, director of the Arnold Arboretum and administrator of botanical collections, Harvard University, has nearly completed a special emergency food manual for the War Department, covering the Polynesian, Micronesian and southwestern Pacific areas. This will later be extended to cover the entire Malayan region. The task was undertaken at the request of the War Department through the National Research Council. The tender stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds and underground parts of a great variety of native and introduced species are currently used by the natives of the regions covered, to supplement their daily diet. A selection of the more common and widely distributed species, with illustrations, simple statements covering the parts used, special methods of preparation where indicated and the habitats in which the species occur indicates its scope.

AN American Standard governing letter symbols for mechanics of solid bodies has been approved and published by the American Standards Association. In addition to the sixty-eight letter symbols approved to indicate such concepts as angular acceleration, circular frequency, factor of safety, normal strain, wavelength and the like, the new standard cites general principles of letter symbol standardization governing manuscripts, subscripts, superscripts, unlisted magnitudes and typography. The new standard was prepared by the Sectional Committee on Letter Symbols and Abbreviations for Science and Engineering, under the joint technical leadership of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Ameri-

can Society of Civil Engineers, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

THE Buenos Aires correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes: "The scientific relations between Argentina and Brazil are close. Groups of physicians of each country make visits to the other country for the exchange of scientific knowledge. Books of Brazilian medicine have been recently translated into Spanish under the honorary direction of Dr. Mariano Castex, professor of clinical medicine of the Faculty of Medicine of Buenos Aires, and under the active direction of Dr. Egidio S. Mazzei and Elyeser Magalhaes. The volumes of this collection have been translated into Spanish with the aim of enabling Spanish-speaking physicians to know some of the most important books of their Brazilian colleagues. Dr. José Silveira's book, 'Atelectasia y Tuberculosis Pulmonar,' is the first one of this collection to be translated. Three other books are going to be translated and published in the near future: (1) 'Enfermedades del Hígado: Diagnóstico, Patologoa, Terapéutica,' by Dr. Clementino Fraga; (2) 'Aneurismas Aórticos,' by Dr. A. de Almeida Prado, and (3) 'Propedéutica Radiológica,' by Professor Manuel de Abreu. All these books are edited by the publishing house 'El Ateneo' of Buenos Aires."

*The Times, London,* reports that as a gesture of appreciation from British doctors to their colleagues in Russia a book containing articles on British war medicine has been prepared by the Anglo-Soviet Medical Council. The council held a reception in London on November 23, when Madame Maisky was presented with the book and the Honorable Ivor Montagu spoke on "Scientific and Educational Films in the U.S.S.R."

# DISCUSSION

## SORA, NEAR-VICTIM OF A FISH

ON September 15, 1942, an immature male specimen of sora (*Porzana carolina*) was transmitted to the New York State Museum by Vernon Haskins, of East Durham, Greene County, New York. This bird was recovered from the highway near his home, where evidently it had been struck by a passing automobile the preceding night. The carcass was intact and examination of the internal organs revealed only slight trauma and bleeding with the skeletal parts in perfect condition. Measurements in millimeters are as follows: length, 203; wing, 109; tail, 53; tarsus, 29; bill, 19. The bird was very fat and weighed 73.4 grams.

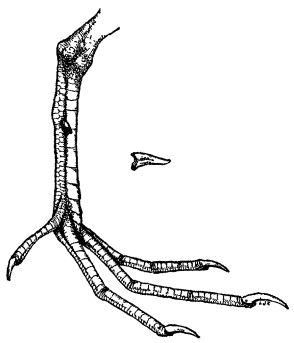

FIG. 1. Left tarsus of sora showing position of the fish tooth; also a lateral view of the tooth itself. About two-thirds natural size.

Upon skinning the rail an interesting point came to light. One-half inch below the proximal end of the posterior aspect of the left tibio-tarsus a small, slightly curved and sharply pointed tooth-like structure had pierced both sides of the tarsal envelope and the contained tendon. The point of this foreign element had entered from the outer side of the tarsus and projected for a distance of about one millimeter beyond the inner tarsal covering. Hidden beneath the outer tarsal covering was the base of the element. Some slight discoloration marked its points of entrance and exit.

Removal and detailed examination of the offending foreign body revealed that it was the tooth of a fish, evidently a northern or some other species of pike (*Esox*). The broad base, shape, peculiar curvature, vertical basal striations and evident mode of insertion all provide evidence for this conclusion. The original length of this tooth was about 6 millimeters and the greatest basal width 1.5 millimeters; unfortunately, its extreme tip—perhaps one-half millimeter in length—was accidentally broken off at the time the tooth was extracted from the tarsus.

That the injury had been suffered not long before was evident from the still slightly blood-red internal appearance of the recently lost tooth and the fairly fresh condition of the rail's small leg wound. Since the tooth either had penetrated or abraded the tendon, it is possible that in walking the bird had suffered some slight inconvenience or possibly pain.

One can only surmise the manner in which the tooth became thus embedded in the leg of the rail. It is well known that pike are voracious feeders with carnivorous proclivities. The available evidence suggests that the bird while walking in the water may have been set upon by one of these fish which scored only a "near miss" for its efforts. Later, the rail suffered an even more ignominious end as the victim of a speeding motor car.

The sora here discussed is now included in the