genera and subgenera. It is rich in the little-known regions of Alabama and other places in the southern states, and contains extensive material from Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, and other parts of Central and South America. Mr. Hinkley was a careful collector and the material includes valuable data as to place and habitat. It is the most valuable scientific collection received by the university in many years. The estate of the late Dr. W. A. Nason, of Algonquin, Ill., has presented Dr. Nason's collections to the museum. These consist of about 50,000 insects, mostly American and largely Illinois, 10,000 land, fresh water, and marine mollusks, and about 2,000 plants.

Syracuse University has come into possession, by gift, of the personal herbarium of Gertrude Norton, a native of Syracuse, and a former student in Syracuse University. Miss Norton taught for some years in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she died in 1919. This herbarium embraces a collection of about one thousand specimens of the rare or more characteristic plants of Utah and of the Flathead region of Montana.

The state of Illinois has printed for the Natural History Survey of the state a second edition of a report by S. A. Forbes and R. E. Richardson on the fishes of Illinois, the original edition, published in 1908, having been out of print for several years. This report contains an account of the topography and hydrography of Illinois, a chapter on the distribution of Illinois fishes within the state and throughout the country, and full descriptions and many illustrations of the 150 species of fishes found in Illinois, with accounts of their distribution, habits, food, and uses so far as these are known. It is illustrated by 76 black and white figures and colored plates of 68 species. The main report of 492 pages is accompanied by an atlas of 102 maps of the state showing its stream systems, its glacial geology, the localities from which collections of fishes have been made by the Natural History Survey, and those from which each of the 98 more abundant species has been taken. A limited number of the edition is reserved for free distribution to libraries, educational institutions and specialists who have not received the first edition, and the remainder are offered in single copies to institutions and individuals at the cost of the reprint.

The death of Dr. John Iridelle Dillard Hinds is announced, at the age of seventy-three years. Dr. Hinds was one of the founders of the American Chemical Society. He was born in North Carolina, educated in the preparatory schools of Arkansas, was for over forty years professor of chemistry in Cumberland University, the University of Nashville and Peabody College. At the time of his death he was chemist for the Geological Survey of Tennessee.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Dr. Ernest Fox Nichols, for the past year director of physical research at the Nela Park Laboratory, Cleveland, recently professor of physics at Colgate, Dartmouth, Columbia and Yale and president of Dartmouth College, has been elected president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to succeed the late Richard C. Maclaurin.

George Hoyt Whipple, director of the Hooper Foundation at the University of California, has been appointed dean of the school of medicine, dentistry and surgery of the University of Rochester.

Professor George H. Parker has been appointed director of the Harvard Zoological Laboratory to succeed Professor E. L. Mark, who will retire from active teaching at the close of the current year with the title of professor emeritus, after having spent forty-four years in the service of the university. The new director, Professor Parker, has been associated with Harvard University since his graduation in 1887, and has held a full professorship of zoology since 1906.

Dr. Olof Larsell, associate professor of zoology at Northwestern University, has ac-

cepted the position of professor of anatomy in the medical school of the University of Oregon.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

OSTEOMYELITIS IN THE PERMIAN

IT is always an interesting matter to be able to call attention to the earliest appearance in geological time of any phenomenon of nature which is common at the present time. It is especially important in ancient pathology to point out the similarity in form of the results of infective processes of ancient times with those of recent epochs. It is evident that the results of pathological processes have undergone no particular evolutionary change and one untrained in the study of fossil objects is able to recognize an example of osteomyelitis from the Permian if he is acquainted with modern pathology.

The present specimen which shows this interesting phase of pathology is a posterior dorsal spine of a reptile of the *Dimetrodon* type and was collected in the Red Beds of Texas by Mr. Paul C. Miller, of the University of Chicago. The spine had been fractured near its base in a simple transverse break, the line of which is still evident, and from an ensuing infection a chronic osteomyelitis developed in the shaft of the bone producing a sinus-filled tumefaction which is to-day so characteristic of that condition. This argues for the presence of infective bacteria during the Permian such as have been demonstrated by the magnificent researches of Renault in the Paleozoic of France.

This is the oldest vertebrate fossil showing the results of infection which has been seen or described, as it is likewise the oldest example of osteomyelitis. These statements apply only to fossil vertebrates for I have not sufficient knowledge of invertebrate forms to make a sweeping statement covering all fossil forms, but so far as my studies go I have seen no example of bacterial infection during the life of any Paleozoic form older than the reptile referred to above. This of course brings up the question as to the existence of a very mild form of pathology during the early geological periods. The entire problem of early pathology is, however, still an open one and hasty conclusions must not be made on insufficient data.

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THE CHROMOSOMES OF CONOCEPHALUM CONICUM

DURING the winter and spring of 1919-20 a study was made of the chromosomes of *Conocephalum conicum* for the purpose of determining whether or not there exists any visible difference between the chromosome groups of the two sexes. No such difference was found, but the chromosome number (haploid) is plainly nine instead of eight as reported by Farmer, Bolleter, and Escoyez. One of the chromosomes is very minute and may have been overlooked by these workers, or there may possibly be a difference in respect to the chromosome number between the European and the American races which are ascribed to this species. It is planned to secure plants from different localities and continue the study with reference to the chromosome number.

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THE COST OF GERMAN PUBLICATIONS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Concerning this topic I may be allowed, as one not long ago from a neutral country, to answer Mr. Howe's and Mr. Dock's letters (SCIENCE, Nov. 26, 1920, and Dec. 24, 1920, resp.) as follows:

When, before the war, the Germans sold goods to this country at a lower price than they were sold in Germany, this fact was much resented here.

When nowadays, after the war, the Germans sell goods to this country at a higher price, nominally, than they are sold in Germany, this fact is much resented here again.

Note the inconsistency!

If German books could be imported into this country at prices prevailing in Germany