

of the section 5 mi east of Big Sandy, the writers found the following brackish-water pelecypods (identified by W. A. Cobban): *Anomia* sp. (aff. *A. micronema* Meek), *Anomia* sp. (aff. *A. raetiformis* Meek), *Corbula subtrigonalis* Meek and Hayden. These species are said to occur in both the Colorado and the Montana groups, and are therefore not strictly indicative of Fox Hills age. In 1951, Brown, accompanied by Lindvall, found a large leg bone of an unidentified dinosaur in a gray sandstone 50' above the shales containing the mollusks. This sandstone is overlain by 10' of bentonitic clay, dark-gray to purplish in hue—a condition that is matched in the section at the Nielsen ranch, except that the sandstone there is apparently unfossiliferous.

As the Fox Hills sandstone is not known to contain dinosaurian remains, and as the leg bone is from strata that are definitely not identifiable with the local dinosaur-bearing Judith River formation, the beds in question must be later than Fox Hills and earlier than Fort Union—that is, they must be in the Hell Creek formation. This assignment is confirmed by the sequence at the Nielsen ranch, in which the dark bentonitic clay is conformably overlain by relatively unfossiliferous brownish sandstones and shales distrib-

uted upward to the first thin coal seam that marks the base of the Fort Union formation. Shales above this and the succeeding coals yield the characteristic Paleocene flora of the Rocky Mountains and Plains region.

Inasmuch as the strata between the sandstone in the Hell Creek and the dark Bearpaw shale are seemingly conformable, they must contain equivalents of the Fox Hills sandstone. Thus it is probable that the mollusk-bearing shale may be contemporaneous with some part of the Fox Hills sandstone farther east in Montana and the Dakotas, and some or all of the underlying sandstone and shale may be classified with the Bearpaw shale.

With this tentative identification of Fox Hills and Hell Creek strata in the somewhat isolated Bearpaw Mountains region the geologic column for the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary fills out normally and corresponds in general to the established sequence in adjacent regions to the east and southeast.

References

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2. REEVES, F. *U. S. Geol. Survey Bull.*, **751**, 71 (1925).

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Comments and Communications

World Medical Congress

THE President and the International Secretariat of the World Medical Congress for the Study of Present Living Conditions, which was to be held in Montecatini, Italy, on Oct. 16–18 of last year, regret to announce that the Italian Government vetoed this congress. The interdiction was issued at the last moment without any explanation, when preparations were completed and when all the reports were already written.

It is impossible to believe that the Italian government should have any objection concerning the members of the congress, since these include many famous personalities of the medical profession of 34 countries. Hundreds of doctors, in all parts of the world, have manifested their interest and have held many preparatory meetings to discuss beforehand the various points of the program. The scientific standard of the reports, contributed by eminent personalities, is very high.

All those who have taken part in the preparatory work know that the congress has no other aim than that of being an international medical meeting. They can testify that they have always had complete freedom in the choice of subject matter and the presentation of their contributions to the congress.

This interdiction is a blow to the exchange of scientific information among the different countries of the

world. It will cause surprise and dismay among all scientific workers.

For this reason and because of the universal interest in the congress, the International Secretariat feels itself bound to proceed with the organization of the congress, which will be held as soon as possible, in no case later than April 1953. Further news about the new arrangements will be issued later.

The International Secretariat urges all doctors to support the World Medical Congress for the Study of Present Living Conditions and to proceed with the preparatory work in order to secure its success.

PIETRO VERGA, *the President*

CLAUDIO MASSENTI

For the International Secretariat

Rome, Italy

Logic and Language in Medical Writing

GOOD books are available on scientific writing in general and on medical writing in particular. Apparently not enough emphasis, however, has been given to the process that should precede the writing and follow the finding of the substratum of the writing. This process is careful and thorough logical thinking.

In an article on Chicago's philosopher Mortimer Adler (*Time* [Mar. 17, 1952]) we read: "Like a Socratic traveling salesman, he has moved up and down the country, talking to the young and causing