

ANCIENT HIPPO BONES FOUND IN LONDON

Beds of fossil bones of hippopotamas, mammoth, aurochs, giants, deer and other Ice Age species were found recently in London at Charing Cross, in the course of excavating for the construction of a new building. A great portion of the land London stands on is the bed of a prehistoric Thames, which is rich in fossil remains. Stone age implements are occasionally turned up, as well as bones of animals bearing evidence of having been killed by hunters of early times.

ADDING MACHINES WILL SAVE ASTRONOMERS' TIME

At least two-thirds of the time now spent by astronomers on extended computations can be saved by the use of modern adding and computing machines, according to Dr. L. J. Comrie, of the Dearborn Observatory of Northwestern University. In the past, objections have been made to the use of such instruments from the possibility of their being inaccurate, but, said Dr. Comrie, "modern engineering skill has produced machines that are practically foolproof, as well as versatile and easy to operate."

Dr. Comrie pointed out that this development of the computing machine to its present perfection is the result of its wide commercial application, but that this same development has caused the machines to be designed essentially for business purposes. Machines might be constructed which would suit the purposes of astronomers and other scientists much better than those now in use, he said, if they were used to a sufficient extent.

BOTANISTS STRIVING TO SAVE RARE FERNS

The plight of an almost extinct species of fern, surviving from the geological days immediately succeeding the Ice Age, and now clinging precariously to life in a certain limited rocky area in a New York rural district, is interesting members of the Wild-Flower Preservation Society. Its extinction is threatened by the dynamite and steam shovels of a quarrying company, and interested naturalists are rescuing the plants as they have in the past rescued the bison and the antelope, and are transferring them to other places where they have a chance for life.

ARTIFICIAL BLIZZARD TESTS HARDINESS OF ORANGE TREES

An artificial cold wave, generated in an ice cream freezer and allowed to rage in a glass case, was a feature of experiments to determine hardiness of Florida fruit trees, conducted by Dr. James A. Harris of the University of Minnesota. Ice water from the freezer was pumped through a coil surrounding branches of the trees to be tested, the whole being surrounded by a double glass case. Thermometer readings showed at what temperatures the first signs of frostbite appeared, and when death from complete freezing occurred. Dr. Harris expects that tests of this nature will eventually be of value in selecting hardier strains of semi-tropical fruit trees for use in those parts of the South where occasional severe frosts may be expected.