

Thousands are expected to attend the Dayton trial, millions will read the newspaper accounts of the trial and listen over the radio. Prof. Scopes instead of teaching evolution to only a dozen or so of high school boys and girls will have a nation in his classes.

It is important to science, of course, that the Tennessee anti-evolution law be declared unconstitutional, for there can be no adequate teaching of science or medicine with such a ban in force. But in the meanwhile, knowledge of the scientific facts, the best antidote to the anti-evolutionist, is becoming widespread.

-----

#### DARTMOUTH PROFESSOR SAILS FOR ARCTIC IN SEARCH OF A MISSING LINK

The real missing link in the evolutionary chain according to Professor William Patten, who teaches the Freshman course in evolution at Dartmouth College, is not the immediate progenitor of man, but a much more remote ancestor, which connected the fishes with the earlier invertebrate forms. Professor Patten has long held that the secret of this problem would be found in the oldest fish-like animals known, the Ostracoderms, who made their appearance in the early Paleozoic, long before the first true fishes came into existence. The last representatives of this class died out in the Carboniferous era and their fossil remains are rare and fragmentary.

But Professor Patten has heard of a new find of these fossils on the northwest corner of Spitzbergen, and he is starting as soon as possible to explore the locality for this new evidence of evolution. From the northern point of Norway he will proceed to Spitzbergen, five hundred miles north, and then charter a motor boat to convey him along the coast of the islands.

Professor Patten's motive in undertaking this voyage of exploration may be given in his own words;

"To the biologist, the real 'missing link' in animal evolution is not between man and apes but between vertebrates and invertebrates. For the genesis of practically every great system of organs in man can be traced in various ways without serious question to corresponding organs in the fishes. But there the genetic trail ends.

"Thus there is the greatest difference of opinion as to what class of invertebrates gave rise to the fishes and through them to the higher vertebrates. Many biologists now regard this problem as insoluble. I am not of that opinion. I have worked on various aspects of it for nearly forty years and am convinced that I have found essentially the correct solution. The recent finds in Spitzbergen, judging from the as yet brief preliminary accounts, confirm my prediction in a most striking manner.

"This problem has great practical as well as theoretic possibilities. Its solution would more than double our present perspective of the course and manner of animal evolution. Moreover, three of the oldest, and most important organs of man from a medical standpoint, are the pineal gland, the pituitary organ, and the thyroid. They apparently have essentially the same structure and functions in all the back-boned animals from man down to the fishes. If we can prove that the ancestors of the Ostracoderms and fishes were spider like animals, as I believe we can, the homologues of these mysterious organs can be readily identified in living invertebrates, such as modern scorpions and the horseshoe crab. It would then be possible

for the experimental biologists and medical men to learn something definite about their history and initial functions that should be of great importance in the treatment of the diseases in man due to abnormalities of the ductless glands."

-----

WOMAN ASTRONOMER HONORED BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY

For hundreds of years, Oxford University, in England, has been giving honorary degrees to leading men in the fields of science and art, but for the first time, a woman was so honored when the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on Miss Annie Jump Cannon, of the Harvard College Observatory, in recognition of a long series of valuable contributions to astronomy, chief of which is the completion of a catalog of 225,300 stars - "The Henry Draper Catalog of Stellar Spectra".

This catalog was inspired by the late Prof. E. C. Pickering, former director of the observatory, and supported by funds provided as a memorial to Dr. Henry Draper of New York, who made some of the first successful astronomical photographs. It was started in 1911 and published as it progressed, the last volume appearing last summer. The complete work includes nine large volumes.

Miss Cannon sailed for England on June first and received the degree in person. She will visit astronomers in other parts of England and in France and will attend the triennial meeting of the International Astronomical Union at Cambridge, England, in July. She is a member of the Union's International Committee on Spectral Classification.

A native of Dover, Delaware, Miss Cannon attended Wellesley College, graduating in 1884 with the degree of B.S. Her connection with the Harvard Observatory began in 1897. Since then her work, in addition to the Henry Draper Catalog, has included a long series of observations of variable stars, a bibliography of the literature on variable stars, containing about 75,000 references, the discovery of 200 variable stars, 4 new stars and one spectroscopic binary, a double star with the two parts so close that only the spectroscope reveals their duplicity. Much of this work was done at the Harvard Observatory branch station at Arequipa, Peru.

Among the other honors that she has received are honorary membership in the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain, and in the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia; honorary degrees of Doctor of Science from the University of Delaware in 1918; Doctor of Astronomy from the University of Groningen, Holland, in 1921; and Doctor of Laws from Wellesley, her alma mater, last month. In addition, she has been selected as one of the twelve greatest living American women, by the National League of Women Voters.

-----

A single fly may carry anywhere from 550 to 6,600,000 disease germs.

-----

Foreign countries are adopting the type of parachute developed and used by the U. S. Army Air Service to make aviation safer.

-----

From 12 to 15 per cent. of the pork produced in the United States each year is exported.

-----