

cally, that had a huge upstanding fin, like the fin of a modern sailfish, sticking up along its spine. Each of the long ribs that supported it had a row of thorny projections on either side. Altogether it was an awesome object.

What could have been the use of such an expanse of bone and skin? Some paleontologists have suggested that it discouraged bigger reptiles from biting the creature through its backbone. If that were the case, of course the structure had a real survival value. Others, taking the contrary view, have said that it was not a "fitness feature" but an "unfitness feature"—that its sheer size and awkwardness was a handicap that hastened the extinction of the species. But in spite of this handicap (if such it was) the reptile managed to survive many millions of years.

Now its mounted skeletons in the museums grin at us with bare teeth and empty eye-holes—a riddle still unsolved.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936

PHYSICS

Noise Standard to Help in Choosing Hearing Aids

RELIABLE standards for the guidance of the 5,000,000 men and women who need mechanical aids to hearing will result from the work of a new committee of the American Standards Association.

Headed by Dr. Vern O. Knudsen of the University of California at Los Angeles, a group of manufacturers, specialists and users will develop national standards for measuring noise so that physicians and the deaf can select devices to aid hearing with scientific guidance.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936

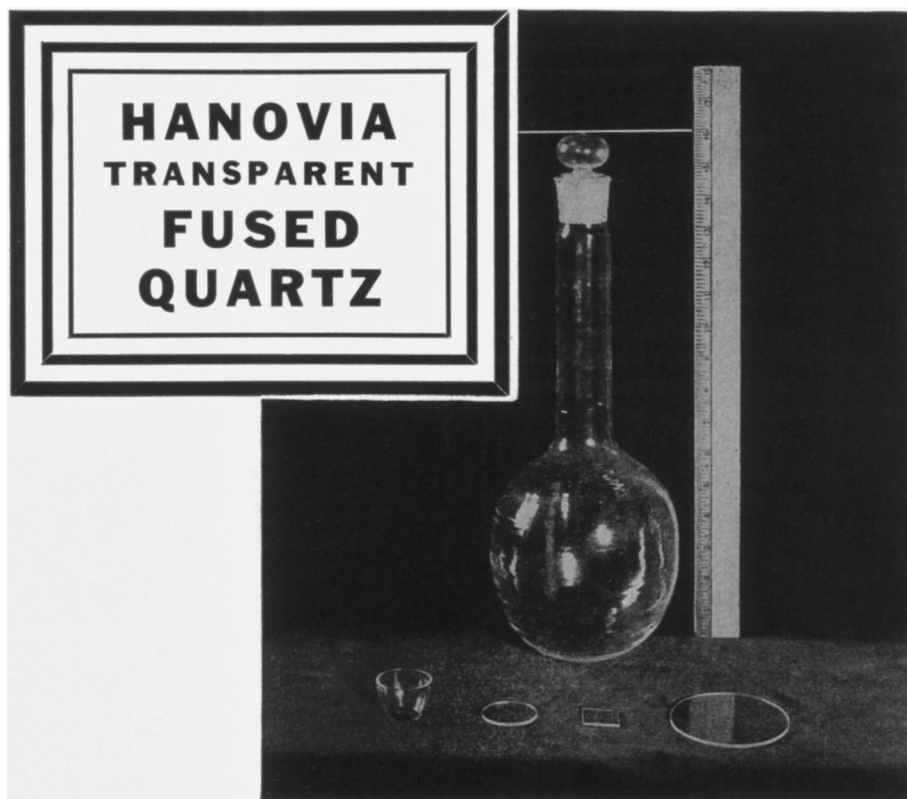
An expedition collecting fish on the Great Barrier Reef, off Australia, found tiger sharks 12 feet long.

● RADIO

February 18, 3:00 p. m., E.S.T.
THE GEOGRAPHY OF DISEASE—Dr. Earl B. McKinley, Dean of the Medical School, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

February 25, 3:15 p. m. E.S.T.
WEATHER — WHETHER OR NO — Dr. W. J. Humphreys of the United States Weather Bureau.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.



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