

staff, was reported at the expedition's headquarters at Kom Oshim near Cairo in the Faiyum Desert.

The recovery of Stone Age artifacts together with fossil animals will make it possible to reconstruct the life and con-

ditions of this period, and possibly necessitate a redating of the lake, Dr. Huzayin said.

The fossil specimens include hippopotamus, wart hog, gazelle, large ante-lope, elephant, crocodile, turtle, and fish.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

17 Expeditions Planned

Scientists of the Chicago Natural History Museum will go to Bermuda to study sea life, to Burma to collect birds, to Peru and Bolivia to collect plants.

► STRANGE creatures from more than a mile under the surface of the ocean off Bermuda, fossils of invertebrates 450,000,000 years old from the mountains of Pennsylvania, birds from Burma and insects from Guatemala are a few of the prizes which scientists from the Chicago Natural History Museum plan to collect this year.

In all, 17 expeditions at locations ranging from Africa to Arkansas and from Alaska to Burma will make studies and collect specimens.

The three-month Bermuda Deep-Sea Expedition will start work June 1, under the joint sponsorship of the museum and the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc., St. Georges, Bermuda. The "Caryn," a 98-foot ketch loaned to the Bermuda station by the Oceanographic Institution of Woods Hole, Mass., will be used by the expedition to study sea life at depths of from 8,000 to 12,000 feet.

Loren P. Woods, curator of the museum's division of fishes, will be leader of the expedition, with Dr. Dugald E. S. Brown heading the Bermuda group.

Another large expedition will be the museum's archaeological expedition to the Southwest, where a large staff will continue excavations of prehistoric Indian sites. Dr. Paul S. Martin, chief curator of anthropology, will lead.

The Rush Watkins Southeast Asia Expedition will leave Chicago in September to collect birds in Burma. Mr. Watkins, a Chicago businessman, and Dr. Austin L. Rand, the museum's curator of birds, will conduct the work. Melvin A. Traylor, Jr. museum associate, will head another ornithological expedition which will collect Mexican birds in the Mt. Orizaba region, beginning in June.

Eugene S. Richardson, curator of invertebrate fossils, will collect invertebrates of the Ordovician period in the mountains of Pennsylvania, while Dr. Rainer Zangerl, curator of fossil reptiles,

will conduct a search for specimens of prehistoric reptiles and amphibians in the Alcova formation of central Wyoming.

Four botanical groups will be in the field. Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, curator of economic botany, will spend several weeks next month in Cuba with Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, curator emeritus of botany, who is studying palm genetics. In April, Dr. Cutler will fly to Peru and Bolivia to collect plant specimens in those countries. Paul C. Standley, curator of the museum's herbarium will collect botanical specimens in Central America, beginning in September, while Dr. Francis Drouet, curator of cryptogamic botany, will at the same time collect mosses, seaweeds and other specimens in coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico from Louisiana to Florida.

Harry Hoogstraal, assistant curator of insects, is in Africa with the University of California expedition, and Rupert L. Wenzel, assistant curator of insects, will leave in April for Guatemala where he will collect insects for the museum.

Mammal specimens from the state of Arkansas will be studied by Colin C. Sanborn, curator of mammals, starting in March, while the assistant curator of mammals, Philip Hershkovitz, will leave in October for Colombia to begin a year of mammal collecting in that country.

Dr. Robert Kriss Wyant, curator of economic geology, and Harry Changnon, curator of exhibits, will collect ores in the Black Range Mountains, N. Mex., and Dr. Sharat K. Roy, chief curator of geology, will continue his field study in the Adirondack Mountain areas of New York, New Hampshire and perhaps Massachusetts.

Material for use in a habitat group of the precious sea otter will be collected in Alaska this summer by Frank Wonder, staff taxidermist.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

TECHNOLOGY

Short Length Nylon Fibers Make Wool-Like Garments

► LADIES' stockings, more sheer than any you have seen, and warm, wool-like socks for men, both made of nylon, were displayed at the DuPont plant in Seaford, Del.

Other all-nylon products shown were: woolly sweaters, soft blankets, upholstery and felt.

Some of these new nylon developments are made possible by cut-to-length, staple nylon. The synthetic fibers are stretched, crimped and cut into lengths of two or three inches. Instead of the sheer fabrics such as are produced from

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long, continuous-filament nylon, the short length fibers can be used to create soft, warm garments which resemble wool. This process is opening up a vast new field for synthetic fiber. Used alone or blended with wool, silk or rayon, it is giving greater variety in fabrics and more durable ones.

Both the sheerest of sheer ladies' stockings and woolly, nylon men's socks have been produced only experimentally. The sheerest stockings are 10 denier, compared with 15 or 20 for most nylons.

Nylon itself is still in its infancy. It was first introduced to the public less than ten years ago. Not in the form of stockings but as toothbrush bristles was it first placed on the market. Nylon

stockings did not appear until May 15, 1940.

Strength along with elasticity are nylon's two most important properties. Today, this fiber, a favorite with fastidious ladies, is proving its popularity in many fields. Polo shirts, jockey caps and football pants are made of it. Nurses find that uniforms of nylon save laundry bills. Nylon linings in fur coats outwear the fur. The fabric makes excellent laundry nets. Blouses, slips, panties and foundation garments are only a few of the newly-approved uses of this synthetic fiber, that in less than a decade has begun to play such a vital role in the fabric industry.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

California showed that streptomycin controlled pneumonic plague, the most deadly form of the disease, in 90% of mice. But its effect on human plague patients remained to be proved.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Atomic Energy Exhibit Biggest of Its Kind in U. S.

See Front Cover

► JOHN Q. PUBLIC is invited to view the biggest atomic energy exhibit ever provided the American people at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Sponsored by the Brookhaven National Laboratory to promote individual understanding of nuclear science developments, the exhibit utilizes models, demonstrations, talks, movies, large panel diagrams presenting fundamental atomic facts, photomurals and other devices to show the great values of nuclear energy in scientific research.

A model power plant, shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, demonstrates how an atomic pile may some day be used to generate electric power. Nuclear fission releases great

MEDICINE

Plague Patients Saved

Streptomycin was given to five dying patients after other treatment proved futile. First sign of improvement was seen within 36 hours.

► FIVE patients dying of plague, one of the most fatal of all epidemic diseases, are alive and well today, thanks to streptomycin. They are living proof of the hopes held by medical scientists that the great disease conqueror from an earth mold would prove effective against this scourge of the centuries.

The patients were victims in a plague outbreak in the Madras Presidency, India. Their rapid recoveries under streptomycin treatment are reported by the Anantapur medical officer, P. V. Karamchandi, and the medical officer of the Hindupur Plague Hospital, K. Sundar Rao, in the medical journal, *Lancet*, (Jan. 3.)

The five young patients had temperatures as high as 106.6 degrees Fahrenheit, swollen glands, were semi-conscious and had a dangerously low rate of breathing. Plague germs were discovered upon puncture of the enlarged glands.

Sulfa drugs, found partly effective in checking plague in China, were given to the first three of the patients but did not help. So streptomycin was tried. Within 36 hours after the start of this treatment the patients became conscious and recovery followed rapidly.

"Streptomycin appears to be a potent drug for the treatment of human plague," the Indian medical officers report.

No bad effects were observed from the drug.

The lowly laboratory mouse first pointed the way to check-mating the Black Death. In the early part of 1947, Dr. Karl Meyer of the University of



MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END—By touching the dome of this model Van de Graaff electrostatic generator, used in nuclear processes, the young man on the right got a shock of static electricity which made his hair rise vertically. This is one of several scientific instruments being shown at the atomic energy exhibit.