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VIBRATION CONTROL—John N. Macduff and John R. Curreri—*McGraw-Hill*, 465 p., illus., \$9. Text for students of machine design.

WIND ATLAS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC—James W. McGary and Thomas M. Naito—*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, Special Scientific Report—Fisheries No. 243, 35 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. Wind is important to the fisherman because no matter how abundant the fish a good catch cannot be obtained when wind and water are adverse.

THE WORLD OF ENGINEERING—Frank Ross, Jr.—*Lothrop*, 186 p., illus., \$3. Information for the young person who wants to know whether he should go into this profession.

Science News Letter, April 19, 1958

ICHTHYOLOGY

Deep-Swimming Whales Tangle With Cables

➤ WHEN A WHALE and submarine cable meet, the tangled, knotty results may spell disaster for the whale and broken communications for the telegraph company. However, they can also mean additional information for scientists on how deep a dive a whale can make.

A study of 14 cases of whales entangled in submarine cable lines shows that whales can withstand pressures at close to four-fifths of a mile down. Six of the reports describe finding whale carcasses or remains entangled in cable brought up from about 3,000 feet. The maximum depth mentioned is 3,720 feet. All whales positively identified were sperm whales.

Apparently the whales swim at these great depths in search of food. As they move through the water, jaws open and plowing through food-containing sediment on the ocean floor, the animals run the risk of collision with a cable. It also is possible whales attack slack cable, mistaking it for food.

Bruce C. Heezen, Lamont Geological Observatory, Palisades, N. Y., who reports on his study in the British journal *Deep-Sea Research*, says there is little doubt that whales caused the damage to cables. The way the cables were obviously mauled, the correlation between first reports of cable failure and the state of decomposition of the whale's body, and other factors such as location, depth and ocean currents all point to whales as the culprits.

Reports of whale entanglements off the coasts of Ecuador and Peru in March may be more evidence of the seasonal migration of sperm whales, Mr. Heezen says.

Science News Letter, April 19, 1958

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