

showed evidence of the relation between the two conditions.

Patients and relatives of patients with either condition will find in Dr. Lennox's book a clear statement of the latest knowledge of causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of both conditions.

Science News Letter, July 26, 1941

ICHTHYOLOGY

New Hall of Fishes Opened at Field Museum

VISITORS to the Field Museum of Natural History will henceforth be able to get a mermaid's-eye view of the sub-sea world in the new Hall of Fishes, just opened to the public. In preparing the new exhibits, museum workers went to the sea bottom in diving bells and submarine tubes, to study and sketch the life of the sea "in place."

Three typical habitants are depicted: a coral reef in the Bahamas, the Gulf bottom off the Texas coast, and a deep tide pool among the rocks of Maine. Special attention has been paid to sharks: specimens range from a "small" whale shark 25 feet long, through the really dangerous man-eating white shark, to bizarre forms like the hammerhead shark and the whip-tail eagle ray.

Science News Letter, July 26, 1941



BENEATH TEXAS WATERS

This undersea habitat group is in the new Hall of Fishes opened at the Field Museum of Natural History. The photograph shows "oyster lumps"—rounded masses to which the oysters attach themselves to a firm base on the sea bottom and then in turn furnish attachment for other oysters until progressively the oyster lump is formed. Only the outer layer of oysters remains alive.

PALEONTOLOGY

Half-Billion Years Represented By Three Small Specimens

Cardboard Box Mailed To Each Recipient of "Things" Contains Remnants of Ancient Plant and Animal Life

HALF a billion years of geological antiquity are summed up by three specimens in a little cardboard box, mailed out by Science Service to each of the participants in a new idea in scientific information distribution, called "Things of Science." Instead of words and pictures, actual samples of the materials themselves are circulated. The idea has taken hold especially well in schools, as well as with private persons who want the "Things" for their own collections.

The three specimens in the geological "Things" unit are a brachiopod shell, a fragment of dinosaur bone and a bit of lignitized wood collected near Washington, D. C.

The brachiopod shell in itself accounts for nearly a third of a billion years of earth history. It came from a limestone

deposit of upper Devonian age. This was the period when the first air-breathing vertebrates ventured ashore, to found the long line of descent that led to the dinosaurs—and ourselves. Brachiopods are creatures that look rather like clams or scallops, but belong to a different group of animals. The ones now living have changed very little from those of the earliest days—they are among the world's champion conservatives.

Second chunk of antiquity in the little box is the piece of dinosaur bone, perhaps about 150 million years old. This came from a lot of spare parts left over after the assembly of some skeletons of Jurassic age at the American Museum of Natural History. They came from a place in Wyoming called Bone Cabin Quarry, because dinosaur bones are so abundant there that sheep-herders once built a shack out of them, as if they were ordinary field stones. Part of the mineral in this fossil fragment is from the original bone substance, but changed and rearranged by the slow chemistry of the centuries.

Most recent of the specimens is the piece of lignitized wood. This shows the original structure of the old conifer tree that fell into a bog, something over 55 million years ago in Cretaceous time and slowly gave up all its chemical constituents except its carbon and minerals. It looks like a shiny bit of coal, but it is actually crude jet—the same kind of stuff that is used in the familiar beads and ornaments.

Participants receive "Things of Science" monthly, for \$4 a year, which permits operation on a non-profit basis.

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● RADIO

Thursday, July 31, 2:45 p.m., EST

On "Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Charles W. Gilmore, paleontologist at the National Museum, will describe expeditions that go hunting dinosaurs.

Listen in each Thursday.