

"Irish Snakes"

GOOD St. Patrick, it is said, drove the snakes out of Ireland into the sea. The legend does not tell whether he invited the eels, those odd fish that look like snakes, to come up out of the sea, and make the Friday fast no fast at all. The legend does not tell this, but it might well be the case, for it is in Ireland's slow rivers that the finest eels in Europe may be speared.

Eels are more appreciated on the other side of the water than they are in America. That is a pity, for we have fine eels of our own, and though they are queer to look at and require a queer kind of fishing to catch, they are decidedly not at all queer to eat. And the virtual impossibility of obtaining smoked eel here is nothing short of an unrealized national misfortune.

Eels are odd fish in more than appearance only. Both European and American species have of the strangest life histories known throughout the whole animal kingdom. So obscure and hard to trace has it been, that it was only a few years ago that it was cleared up. Both European and American eels, when they are ready to breed, swim down the rivers to the sea and disappear. They migrate to the Atlantic

Ocean depths near the West Indies, where they produce their eggs and then die. The young eels—elvers, they are called—look very little like eels during the first months of their lives, but gradually take on their typical elongate shape.

In the meantime they have started their long submarine trek toward their ancestral streams. How they ever travel those thousands of miles, with never a guide, and in the total darkness of the deep, no one can as yet hazard the wildest guess. But they do it somehow, taking several years for the journey, and at last come up the seaboard rivers with the rush of a living tide.

Science News Letter, March 16, 1935

ECONOMICS

Permanent Jobs Considered Obsolete

THE term "permanent job" has been discarded by the United States Employment Service as misleading, it is revealed in a new report by Dr. William H. Stead, director of the Division of Standards and Research of the Service.

When a job is definitely known to be of less than one month's duration, it is recorded as "temporary" in the records of the Employment Service.

If it is scheduled for more than one month, and presumed to be of long duration, it is set down as "regular."

"The term 'permanent,' characteristic of employment office records in the past, has been discarded as misleading in the light of present-day conditions," the report states.

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PALEONTOLOGY

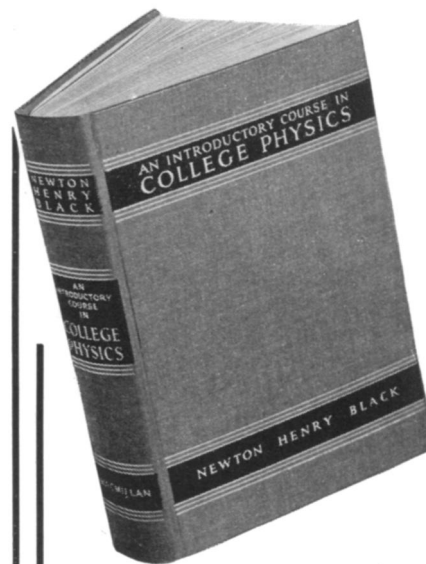
Scientist Makes Study of "Seven Ages of a Fossil"

SHAKESPEARE'S famous Seven Ages of Man now have a fossil parallel, in the ages of a trilobite (a good many more than seven) worked out by Dr. G. Arthur Cooper, paleontologist of the Smithsonian Institution. (*Journal of Paleontology*).

Dr. Cooper has made a detailed study of ninety specimens of fossil trilobites, primitive relatives of crabs and crayfish, through all stages of their life development from infants a third of an inch long up to adults nearly four inches in length.

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● RADIO

Tuesday, March 19, 4:30 p. m.

THE STORY OF MAN, by Henry Field, Field Museum of Natural History.

Tuesday, March 26, 4:30 p. m.

WHY TAKE THE SUN FOR GRANTED? by Dr. Donald M. Menzel, Harvard College Observatory.

In the Science Service series of radio addresses given by eminent scientists over the Columbia Broadcasting System.