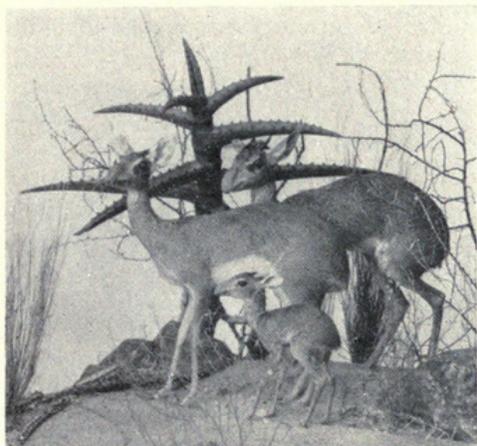


of South and Central America. Another interesting opinion is that *Leptomeryx* was an early side branch of the camel family. While it may seem that such widely divergent views could be due only to inadequate



Modern Midget Among Hoofed Animals

The dik-dik, as shown in a habitat group in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall. While this animal is a tiny antelope, rather than a deer, it is about the size of the extinct *Leptomeryx*, and thus gives a general idea of that creature's appearance. Among contemporary mammals, the dik-dik's size approximates that of a full-grown rabbit. Its home is on the Ethiopian coast.

study, it must be remembered that both the camel and the deer came from a common ancestor, and that as we go back in geologic time the characters which separate the two groups become less and less pronounced and finally merge into those of the stem form.

Television Programs Resumed by Field Museum Staff

Field Museum is again participating in a series of experimental programs in education by television over station W9XZV, operated by the Zenith Radio Corporation of Chicago. Officials of the Zenith Corporation requested the Museum to present the current series because of the success attained in the similar programs given last September and October. The first program was given on January 12, and the series will continue each Friday at 7:45 P.M., through February and most of March. The staff of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures is managing the programs, and members of the staff of all the scientific departments are appearing as speakers and being televised with various objects demonstrating the subjects of their talks.

Beech Forest Discovered in Mexico

Professor Maximino Martínez, well known botanist of Mexico City, is now engaged in monographic studies of the pines, of which Mexico probably has more species than any other area of equal size on the earth. He was a recent visitor to Field Museum, and presented to the Herbarium specimens of a Mexican beech tree, *Fagus Mexicana* Martínez, which represent the first record of this genus for Mexico.

The discovery in Mexico, a country believed to be fairly well explored botanically, of a beech forest is a matter of great scientific interest. The locality is in the mountains of Zacatlmaya, near Zacualtipán, about eighty miles northeast of Mexico City, in the State of Hidalgo, at an elevation of 6,000 feet. The forest is reported to cover hundreds of acres. The trees are 100 to 130 feet in height, with trunks 18 to 36 inches in diameter. Previously only a single species of *Fagus* has been known from America—the familiar beech, occasional in the Chicago region, which ranges from eastern Canada to northern Florida and eastern Texas. The Mexican tree bears much larger nuts than the northern tree. —P.C.S.

MUSEUM BOTANIST CONTINUES VENEZUELAN EXPLORATION

An expedition far into the interior of the Venezuelan Guiana, by way of the Caura and Merevari Rivers to the Pacarima Mountains, is about to be undertaken by Mr. Llewelyn Williams, Curator of Economic Botany at Field Museum. A report on his plans was recently received from Mr. Williams, who for the last two years has been engaged in botanical exploration for the Venezuelan government during an extended leave of absence from his Museum post. He expects to join a Venezuelan boundary commission which is at work near the Brazilian border.

This is the second such expedition Mr. Williams has made in Venezuela. Reporting on the recently completed first expedition, he tells of a trip into a region so sweltering that it is known as "Infierno" or "Hades" to the native boatmen who navigated the sailboat, canoes, and dugouts used for this wilderness travel. Three weeks were spent in traversing a region totally uninhabited, sailing on rivers upon which dangerous rapids frequently had to be negotiated. Mr. Williams collected plant specimens and helped the native boatmen fish with "barbasco," a poison thrown in the water to stun the fish. By this method, he writes, about 300 large fish, and some 200 pounds of smaller ones, were caught in two hours.

Products of Conifers

The coniferous trees are not only important for their wood, but for producing resin, turpentine and other distilled products of great economic value. Resin and turpentine come from yellow pine (*Pinus palustris*) and other species of *Pinus*. Pine tar is made by destructive distillation of pine wood. Canada balsam, so useful for mounting microscopic objects, is derived from balsam blisters on the trunk of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). Comprehensive exhibits of yellow pine and balsam fir may be seen in Charles F. Millspaugh Hall (Hall 26).

MUSEUM STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Several new appointments to the staff of Field Museum became effective at the beginning of this year. Mr. Alexander Spoehr assumed his post as Assistant Curator of American Ethnology and Archaeology, Mrs. Eunice Gemmill became Assistant Librarian, and Mr. Bert E. Grove joined the staff of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Mr. Spoehr, a native of Palo Alto, California, attended Leland Stanford University and the University of Chicago, and has a bachelor of arts degree from the latter. He served as associate archaeologist with Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology at Field Museum, on two expeditions which excavated prehistoric Indian sites in southwestern Colorado in 1937 and 1938. He participated also in expeditions of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago—the Southern Illinois Archaeological Expedition in 1936, and ethnological expeditions among the Seminole, Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw and Alabama-Koasati Indians in 1938 and 1939. His first tasks in his Field Museum post will include work on an accumulation of American Indian ethnological material which has been in storage since its collection by expeditions of past years, and editorial work on various as yet unpublished ethnological reports.

Mrs. Gemmill, a graduate of Northwestern University, was formerly a member of the staff of the Chicago Public Library, serving at the Austin and Rogers Park branches of that institution.

Mr. Grove, appointed as a lecturer for the Raymond Foundation, to fill a vacancy which occurred under the operation of the Museum's retirement pension plan, began his duties January 15. He completed his studies at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio), and Northwestern University, receiving a bachelor of science degree from the latter.

Several other additions were made to the Museum personnel to fill vacancies caused by retirements of employees, and to meet increased needs in certain divisions. Among the other new employees are: Mr. Frank Heyser, bookbinder, and Mr. Albert Cohn, assistant, in the Library; Miss Nellie B. Starkson, artist-preparator in the Department of Zoology, and Miss Agnes McNary, departmental librarian and secretary to the Chief Curator of Anthropology.

From the backbone of a fossil reptile comes a bone which has completely changed to precious opal. It is now on display in the Gem Room (H. N. Higinbotham Hall).

Reproductions of pueblos built by the Indians of the Southwest are exhibited in Hall 7 of the Department of Anthropology.



1940. "Beech Forest Discovered in Mexico." *Field Museum news* 11(2), 5-5.

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