

### "GEMS AND JEWELS" SUBJECT OF SUNDAY LECTURES

Where gems come from, what makes them valuable, what superstitions and legends surround each of them, how to tell synthetic stones from genuine ones—these and many other topics will be included in the lecture, "Gems, Jewels and 'Junk,'" to be presented each Sunday afternoon during November by Mr. Paul G. Dallwig, the Layman Lecturer. The lecture will be illustrated with the notable collections displayed in H. N. Higinbotham Hall, and in other halls of the Department of Geology.

The Sunday afternoon Layman Lectures begin promptly at 2 P.M. The heavy demand by the public, and the necessity of limiting each audience to 100 adults (*children cannot be accommodated*), make it necessary to require advance reservations. Persons desiring to attend are advised to apply several weeks in advance. Reservations will be accepted by mail or telephone (WABash 9410).

### MUSEUM AIMS TO AID PARENTS AND END A TABOO

A description of Field Museum's new series of exhibits illustrating the subjects of animal reproduction and embryological development (recently installed in a special alcove of the Hall of Vertebrate Anatomy—Hall 19) appeared in the October issue of *FIELD MUSEUM NEWS*. The writer, Mr. D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Anatomy and Osteology, confined himself to telling what the exhibit contained—he did not stress the underlying educational purpose of the exhibit. That this purpose needs stressing, and that there is still considerable public reluctance to discuss the phenomena of birth as a normal and natural part of life in which everyone should receive proper fundamental instruction, is indicated by the reception accorded to a Museum press release about this exhibit. Only two local newspapers, *The Chicago Sun* and the *Chicago Herald-American*, published the announcement.

Inasmuch as people today pride themselves upon their "modernity," enlightenment, and broad-mindedness, the administration of Field Museum feels that the subject of this exhibit deserves intelligent presentation, and that knowledge about it should be disseminated.

Sooner or later, every father or mother is confronted by his offspring with the question, "Where do babies come from?" And even today the average parent, himself the victim of inhibitions which should not be implanted in the minds of boys and girls, sweats and ponders and reluctantly answers, if at all, with devious stories about the flowers and bees, and other roundabout and largely irrelevant devices. The result is that the child's perfectly proper and natural curiosity remains unsatisfied, and

the parent cannot help but be embarrassed by the realization of his own intellectual dishonesty. Thus a psychological barrier has been erected against true confidences between parent and child in the future. The parents are not in most cases to be blamed, however—most of them are simply not equipped to do this job. It is a task properly falling within the province of teaching, and the average parent has



Photograph courtesy of the Chicago Herald-American

#### "IDEAL BABY" REPRESENTED

Mrs. LaVerne Drake, a Museum visitor, admires sculpture by Malvina Hoffman of a physically perfect child of three weeks in exhibit illustrating embryological development.

neither the knowledge nor the skill of expression to fulfill this important requirement adequately.

That is why Field Museum has now come to the rescue of such parents with this new series of exhibits that by-passes parental reluctance and inability, and tells the children the "facts of life" in a frank, honest, modern manner. The exhibit is easily understood, and at the same time it has the accuracy and dignity of science. The presentation of the subject is graphic, sufficiently comprehensive, and satisfyingly definite. It answers all the principal questions which are apt to occur to a child. At the same time, it disassociates the reproductive process from the realm of "things we don't talk about," and raises it to the level of things we can, should, must, and do think and talk about. Parents will find it a practical solution of their dilemma to inspect this exhibit together with their children—and, as a matter of fact, most of the parents themselves will thereby gain much more exact knowledge than they previously possessed.

#### Change in Visiting Hours

Effective November 1, and continuing until February 28, winter visiting hours—9 A.M. to 4 P.M.—will be observed on weekdays; 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Sundays.

### FOUR MORE SATURDAY LECTURES IN COURSE FOR ADULTS

The final four lectures in the free autumn course for adults on Saturday afternoons will be given during November in the James Simpson Theatre of Field Museum. All will be illustrated with motion pictures in natural colors. Lectures begin at 2:30 P.M. Following are the dates, subjects, and speakers:

**November 7**—CEYLON.

*Charles Brooke Elliott.*

**November 14**—SOUTH TO CAPE HORN.

*Sullivan C. Richardson.*

**November 21**—ASTOUNDING AUSTRALIA.

*Dr. John C. Walker.*

**November 28**—WINGS, FINS, AND ANTLERS.

*John H. Storer.*

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats. Requests for these seats should be made in advance by telephone (WABash 9410) or in writing, and seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:30 o'clock on the day of the lecture. All reserved seats not claimed by 2:30 P.M. will be made available to the general public.

### FILM PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER

On Saturday mornings during November the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures will give the final four programs in its autumn series for children at Field Museum. These programs, to which children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited, and to which admission is free, are presented twice each Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock and at 11, in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. No tickets are needed. Children may come alone, accompanied by adults, or in groups from schools, community centers, etc. In addition to natural color talking motion pictures, each program includes an animated cartoon. Following are the dates and titles:

**November 7**—FLORIDA.

*LAILA (A serial story of Lapland, 3rd episode).*

**November 14**—SOUTH AMERICA.

*LAILA (4th episode).*

**November 21**—SMILE WITH THE CHILDREN OF CHINA.

*LAILA (final episode).*

**November 28**—AN ALL-CARTOON PROGRAM.

The result of much research is Case 7-A, Hall 7, where Southwest pottery types are mounted according to branch and year level. It presents a clear and fascinating picture of the growth of southwestern pottery.





1942. "Museum Aims to Aid Parents and End a Taboo." *Field Museum news* 13(11), 5-5.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25719>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/365080>

**Holding Institution**

Field Museum of Natural History Library

**Sponsored by**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.  
For information contact [dcc@library.uiuc.edu](mailto:dcc@library.uiuc.edu).

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.