

## Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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### FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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B. E. DAHLGREN	..... Acting Curator of Botany
OLIVER C. FARRINGTON	..... Curator of Geology
WILFRED H. OSGOOD	..... Curator of Zoology

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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September	9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Library of the Museum, containing some 92,000 volumes on natural history subjects, is open for reference daily except Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the Museum's Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Lectures for school classrooms and assemblies, and special entertainments and lecture tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

There is a cafeteria in the Museum where luncheon is served for visitors. Other rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Busses of the Chicago Motor Coach Company (Jackson Boulevard Line, No. 26) provide service direct to the Museum. Free transfers are available to and from other lines of the company.

Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

### FIELD MUSEUM OWES MUCH TO C. SUYDAM CUTTING

Word has been received at Field Museum of the recent return from the Andaman Islands of C. Suydam Cutting of New York, one of the Museum's staunchest friends, who has participated in so many of its expeditions, and has made contributions of money and material, and of his time to the interests of the institution.

Not long ago Mr. Cutting organized and wholly financed an expedition for the Museum which made large and valuable zoological collections in Sikkim, India, and along the southern border of Tibet. In 1928 also he organized and conducted at his own expense an expedition to Assam. In three other important Museum expeditions he participated as an active member. These were the James Simpson-Roosevelts Asiatic Expedition (1925-26); the Field Museum-Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition (1926-27); and the William V.

Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition to Eastern Asia (1928-29).

Mention of the last-named expedition recalls that, through an unfortunate error, the article which appeared in the May issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS about the new exhibit of Asiatic water buffalo recently installed in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17) failed to mention the important part Mr. Cutting took in obtaining the specimens for the group. He was with Colonel Roosevelt on this hunt, and it was Mr. Cutting who shot the male buffalo and two of the hog deer shown in the group. He was also responsible for collecting many of the other animals obtained by this expedition.

Mr. Cutting is represented in the Museum collections by many more specimens, now mounted or awaiting preparation for exhibition, as a result of his work on other expeditions. In Hall 15 is to be seen a specimen of the Himalayan langur taken on his recent expedition to Sikkim. He was responsible for the acquisition of the finest specimen of bushbuck brought in by the Field Museum-Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition. This is now on exhibition in George M. Pullman Hall (Hall 13). On the James Simpson-Roosevelts Expedition Mr. Cutting was instrumental in obtaining a large part of the collections, including among other things a specimen of an extremely rare species of Asiatic bear.

Mr. Cutting's interest in and generosity toward Field Museum have been exemplified in many other ways. He purchased and presented to the Museum the fine collection of Abyssinian bird paintings made by the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes, noted artist, who was a member of the Daily News expedition. Following this, Mr. Cutting financed for the Museum the publication of the beautiful portfolio of reproductions in colors of these paintings, which is one of the most attractive and popular publications ever issued by the institution. In addition, the Museum is indebted to Mr. Cutting for complete copies of motion picture films he has made on his various expeditions, and these are especially valuable as graphic records from regions which can be reached only by large and well organized expeditions.

The benefactions the Museum has received from Mr. Cutting have long been recognized by the Officers and Board of Trustees of the institution, and they have expressed their appreciation at various times by the successive elections of Mr. Cutting as a Corporate Member, a Patron, and an Honorary Member of the Museum.

### COCAINE-PRODUCING PLANT

By B. E. DAHLGREN

Acting Curator, Department of Botany

The well known drug cocaine is obtained from the leaves of the coca plant, a shrub or small tree native to South America, especially Bolivia and Peru. It has long been used by the Indians inhabiting the region where it grows, who value it as a stimulant enabling them to carry on hard work over long periods with little food—"a divine gift, that satisfies the hungry, strengthens the weak, supplies new vitality to the exhausted and makes the unhappy forget their troubles."

In small doses cocaine stimulates nerve and muscle; in large doses it is a poison which causes death by paralyzing respiration. The Indians are well aware of its dangerous and habit-forming properties, but the practice of chewing the leaves for the stimulating effect was so well established in Peru at the time of the conquest by Pizarro (1530) that a tax on coca became an important

source of revenue to the Spanish crown. For chewing, the leaves are generally mixed with wood ashes or a little burned lime, the alkali promoting absorption of the drug.

The most important property of cocaine, its anaesthetic effect, did not become generally known to the medical profession until about 350 years later. On account of its habit-forming qualities, cocaine is never used in



Branch of Coca Plant

Source of the drug cocaine. Reproduction made in Stanley Field Plant Reproduction Laboratories from specimen collected in Brazil. On exhibition in Hall of Plant Life.

medicine except as a local anaesthetic, and its illegal sale for other purposes is being vigorously combated.

From a specimen obtained in Brazil by the Marshall Field Botanical Expedition to the Amazon a branch of the plant with its small greenish-white flowers and barberry-like fruits, has been reproduced in the Stanley Field Plant Reproduction Laboratories in the Museum, and may now be seen in the Hall of Plant Life (Hall 29).

### Brazilian Plants for Herbarium

A useful and important addition to Field Museum's Herbarium is a collection of Brazilian plants recently received from the University Museum of Copenhagen. The specimens were collected about a century ago by the Scandinavian naturalists, Eugene Warming and Wilhelm Lund. A monument commemorating the meeting in Brazil of these two famous scientists, who had never before seen each other, is to be unveiled in July at Lagoa-Santa, Minas Geraes, Brazil.

### BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, named by the giver. For those desiring to make bequests, the following form is suggested:

#### FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to Field Museum of Natural History of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois,

Cash contributions made within the taxable year to Field Museum not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.





Dahlgren, B. E. 1932. "Cocaine-Producing Plant." *Field Museum news* 3(6), 2-2.

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