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FANTASTIC INVERTEBRATE CREATURES OF THE SEA ARE SHOWN IN A NEW HALL

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The lower animals, which are so fascinating to the human imagination because of their bizarre shapes, bright colors, and almost unbelievable patterns, are the subject of an extensive series of exhibits occupying a new hall (Hall M on the ground floor of the Museum), which was opened last month.

While it is planned later to make additions to these exhibits, the cases already available contain a choice collection. Many shells of clams and snails illustrate the thousands of variations of which these animals are capable. Varieties so tiny as to be hardly visible contrast with giant clams ranging from two to three feet in diameter, and weighing as much as 155 pounds. Included also are both marine and fresh-water pearl-mussels, with examples of the products obtained from them upon which various industries are based. Land snails of many highly colored varieties, and many grotesque shapes, form another interesting section of the exhibits.

Well represented are the corals, which make up a vast army composed of varieties ranging in color from white through all the hues of the spectrum, and of different forms which give them such names as "brain-like," "fan-like," and "tree-like" corals. Other odd creatures selected from the populations of seas and sea-shores for display in this hall are the sea-urchins, the star-fishes, and a host of other animals of strange appearance and remarkable habits.

These exhibits fill a gap which has long existed in the Museum's Department of Zoology. It is expected that they will not only attract the attention of lovers of nature,

but that they may prove to be fertile material to stimulate the fancy of artists and designers because of the many surprising suggestions they offer as inspiration for compositions in color and form.

Outstanding in interest are life-size reproductions of a large octopus and a giant squid which are hung from the ceiling in this hall.

The exhibits in this hall are equipped throughout with a new type of "daylight"

in the Museum for several months to determine to what extent the lighting was improved, and also to ascertain whether the lights would cause fading or other damage to exhibited objects. The lamps passed the tests on all points. A check on the amount of current consumed indicates an average saving of 71 per cent in wattage as compared with the old type of lights. Certain other exhibits are already being

equipped with the new lights, and plans are under consideration for gradually installing them in many other exhibits, and also in the Library, in offices and laboratories, and elsewhere.

NEW LIGHTING USED IN BIRD HALL ALSO

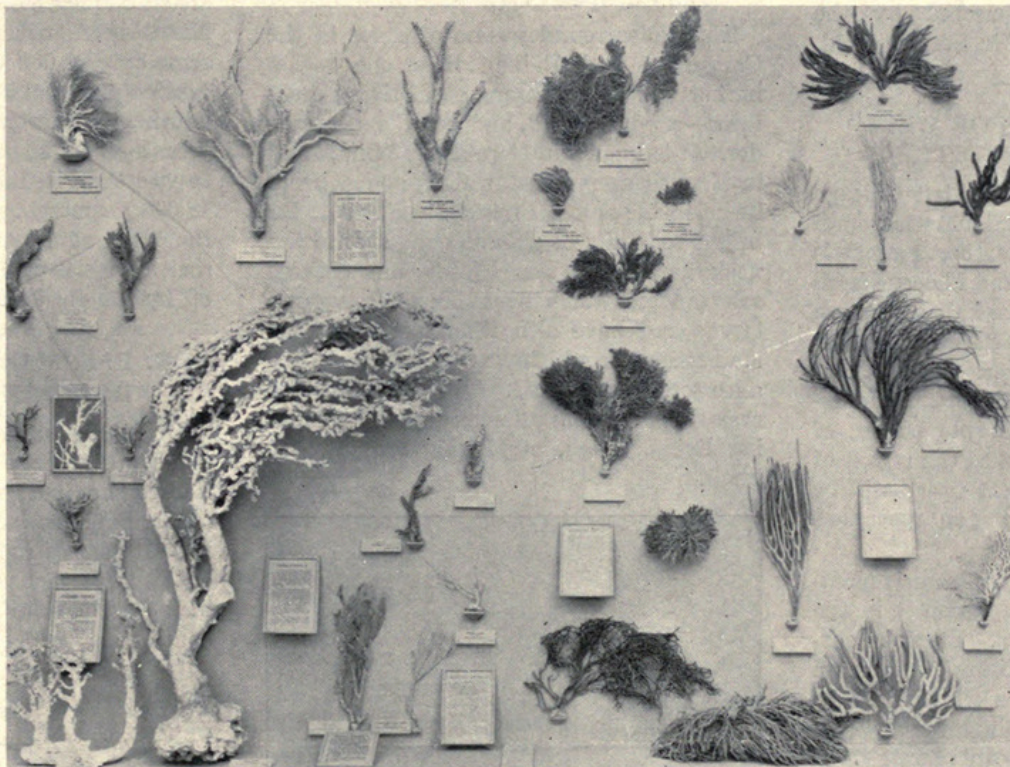
Shortly after the completion of the new Hall of Lower Invertebrates, installation of the new type of lighting used there was completed also in Hall 21, devoted to the systematic collections of birds. Here, as in Hall M, the new lights were found to have distinct advantages in showing exhibits in their true colors.

An application of the new lights in illumination of a habitat group has also

been successfully made in the new Hall of Fishes (Hall O), currently in preparation. Exhibits in Hall O, however, will not be available to the public until construction and installation work is completed, which will require several more months.

A Gift of Navaho Textiles from Homer E. Sargent

Augmenting his many previous gifts over a long period of years, Mr. Homer E. Sargent, of Pasadena, California (formerly of Chicago), recently presented an additional collection of notable Navaho textiles.



One of the Exhibits in the New Hall of Lower Invertebrates

Many other cases, like this one, are filled with specimens of some of the strangest denizens of the sea depths. The displays of bizarre creatures are made all the more striking by a new and extremely effective type of lighting. In this particular group are shown some of the varieties of corals which resemble trees and shrubs in appearance.

lighting which reveals the true colors of the specimens, bringing out rich tones as well as somber shades, and all the delicate variations, in a manner that has never before been possible with ordinary illumination. The hall is the first in Field Museum, and probably the first in any museum, to be thus completely equipped. The light is furnished by a new type of tubular fluorescent lamp, recently developed by the General Electric Company. As used in the Museum, these lamps are concealed in specially constructed light boxes at the tops of the exhibition cases. Before deciding to adopt this innovation, exhaustive tests were made



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