

Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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THE BULLETIN

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

'THE COW IS A MAMMAL, IT HAS SIX SIDES'

The following gem of original natural history observation is a 10-year-old's essay, "A Bird and a Beast," quoted by Sir Ernest Gowers in his book, *Plain Words*, prepared for the guidance of British civil servants whose duties include tasks of writing:

"The bird that I am going to write about is the owl. The owl cannot see at all by day and at night is as blind as a bat.

"I do not know much about the owl, so I will go to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mammal. It has six sides—right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk.

"The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not realized, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell; one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country.

"The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much, but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is all full up with grass."

Sir Ernest's comment is: "The writer had something to say and said it as clearly as he could, and so has unconsciously achieved style."

OBITUARIES

Charles Henry Carpenter

Mr. Charles Henry Carpenter, Chief Photographer on the Museum staff for almost 50 years (from 1899 until his retirement on December 31, 1947), died April 12. He was nearly 90 years old. Mr. Carpenter was born October 20, 1859, at Granville, Ohio. He attended Denison University in his home city and worked for the Eastman Kodak Company before coming to the Museum. The Museum files contain many thousands of fine negatives that he made, both of material in the Museum and on field trips to the Hopi Indian Reservations, the home areas of Oklahoma Indians, and elsewhere. Examples of his work are familiar to all readers of the BULLETIN, the *Annual Report of the Director*, and the technical and popular books and leaflets published by the Museum Press.

Carl Gervens

Mr. Carl Gervens, a member of the staff of the Department of Botany, died April 8, at the age of 78. He had been employed at the Museum since 1924, beginning with the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, and in more recent years taking charge of plant mounting in the Herbarium. He was born in Germany.

Joseph Freeman

Mr. Joseph Freeman, Assistant Engineer at the Museum, died March 3. He had been employed by this institution since 1922. He was born August 30, 1882.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, made a reconnaissance trip to New York state last month to locate Devonian deposits for future work by the Department of Geology. His survey was principally in areas of the Catskill Mountains.... Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, left on April 12 to conduct the Chicago Natural History Museum-Desloge Southwest Botanical Expedition. Mr. Joseph Desloge, of St. Louis, is sponsor of the expedition. Dr. Cutler will work in canyons within the area between Gallup, New Mexico, and Flagstaff, Arizona, collecting material for both the study collections and exhibits. His principal interest will be the joint firs or Ephedra.... Mr. George I. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits

in Anthropology, has gone to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to make a study of archaeological material that may become available to this Museum.... Mr. Quimby and Dr. John B. Rinaldo, Assistant in Archaeology, participated in the Upper Mississippi Valley Archaeological Conference at the University of Chicago.... Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, is chairman of the resolutions committee, and Mr. Donald Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, is chairman of the program committee for the meeting of the Society for American Archaeology to be held at Bloomington, Indiana, in May. Mr. Collier attended the meeting of the "C-14 Committee" at the University of Chicago, which discussed the dating of archaeological material by means of the radioactive isotope of carbon.... Mr. Clifford H. Pope, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, has returned from a field trip to Arkansas and Tennessee, where he engaged in studies of the salamanders of the southeastern United States.... The title of Mr. Harry Hoogstraal has been changed from Assistant Curator of Insects to Field Associate in Zoology.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

Our cover picture might well be titled "The female of the species is more deadly than the male," for it is the female anopheles mosquito that bites man and spreads malaria. Of the male it may be said his buzz is worse than his bite, for he feeds only on plant juices. This situation makes the female the more important of the two and therefore the one depicted in an elaborate enlarged model now exhibited in Stanley Field Hall of the Museum and reproduced on this cover. Magnified 25 times from life-size, this model has a body more than 10 inches long and is about two feet from tip of forelegs to tip of hind legs. What a task confronted Artist-Preparator James E. Trott in undertaking its construction (which called for meticulous scientific accuracy in accordance with Museum standards) may be realized in considering that the model is composed of 20,000 separate pieces, most of them tiny and individually fabricated, and that he spent the greater part of a year in this work. The mosquito is of the species sometimes known as "quad," abbreviated from the scientific name *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*. The giant model is made of various plastics, such as plexiglas, cellulose-acetate, and plastic dyes.



1949. "The Cow is a Mammal, It Has Six Sides'" *Bulletin* 20(5), 2-2.

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