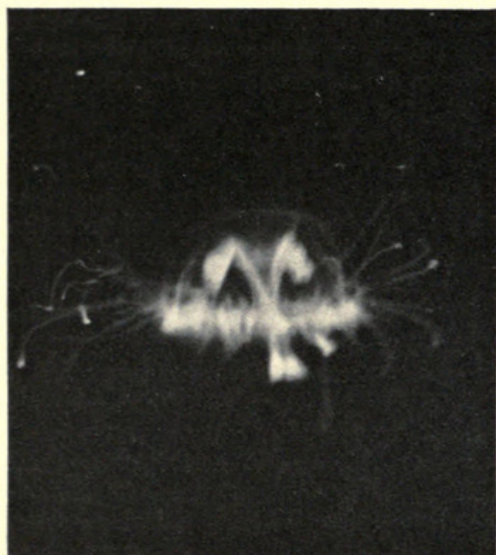


## FRESHWATER JELLYFISH SENSATION DEFLATED

An extraordinary being, a freshwater jellyfish, was recently discovered in Maple Lake, Palos Park, Illinois, according to newspaper reports. Contrary to the press accounts, however, this little animal is not very rare, for it has been repeatedly found both in Illinois and in neighboring Indiana as well as in other states. In Europe, it has been reported from many places, and is found in rivers, ponds, hot-house tanks,



### FRESHWATER JELLYFISH

Specimen of *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* obtained by a Museum collecting party near Bloomington, Indiana. It was found in an abandoned limestone quarry in which about ten feet of water had accumulated.

and so on. Originally, this strange creature had been discovered in Lake Tanganyika in Central Africa and, later, among other localities, in the Yang-tze River in China.

It has since been introduced, by means still unknown, to almost all countries, and it thrives everywhere, although only during the hottest season. At that time of the year, the sexual individuals, i.e., the jellyfish in its floating phase, develop from an asexual stage, called a polyp, a being so tiny that it is usually overlooked. When the young, free-swimming jellyfish detach themselves from this polyp, they are only about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. Gradually, in the warmed-up water of their habitat, they grow and, when fully mature sexually, they may attain a diameter of almost one inch. Their life-span is short, and they soon disappear after they have reached their maximal size.

### Two Lecture Tours Daily Offered in August

During August, lecture tours of Museum exhibits will be offered in both the mornings and the afternoons of weekdays, Mondays through Fridays inclusive; on

Saturdays and Sundays tours will be omitted.

Except on Thursdays, the morning tours will be devoted to the exhibits in one specific department. The afternoon tours (and Thursday morning) will be comprehensive in scope, touching on outstanding exhibits in all departments. Following is the schedule that will be followed weekly:

**Mondays:** 11 A.M.—The World of Plants  
2 P.M.—Highlights of the Exhibits

**Tuesdays:** 11 A.M.—Records from the Rocks  
2 P.M.—Highlights of the Exhibits

**Wednesdays:** 11 A.M.—Animals Around the World  
2 P.M.—Highlights of the Exhibits

**Thursdays:** 11 A.M. and 2 P.M.—Highlights of the Exhibits

**Fridays:** 11 A.M.—People and Places  
2 P.M.—Highlights of the Exhibits

## Books

(The book reviewed below is available by mail order through The Book Shop of the Museum. Remittance should accompany order; price quoted includes postage.)

**JOURNAL OF RESEARCHES into the Geology and Natural History of the Various Countries Visited by H. M. S. Beagle.** By Charles Darwin. Facsimile reprint of the first edition. Hafner Publishing Company, New York. xiv+615+21 pages, 16 plates. Price \$7.50.

Darwin's *Journal of Researches*, often referred to under the title "A Naturalist's Voyage Around the World," is a work of extreme importance to the history of biology. It has long had wide distribution and wide popularity, through many editions, as a travel book. The value of the very rarely available first edition has risen to \$100 or more, and the better illustrated editions appear to be available only at second hand. Thus travelers, book-lovers, historians of science, and scientists themselves are indebted to the active mind of Dr. Franz Verdoorn for the choice of this volume for reprinting in the facsimile series "Pallas."

The importance of Darwin's book is manifold. It is the most invaluable historic record of the impact of travel and first-hand observation on the unfolding mind of a young man who was to become one of the very greatest of scientists. And it remains a vivid book of travel, especially for its extended account of South American scenes, to which 469 of the more than 600 pages of text are devoted. Darwin visited Brazil, Uruguay, the Argentine plains, Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, the wet forests of southern

Chile, the extreme desert of the northern Chilean coast and the coast of Peru, and the extraordinary Galapagos Islands. It was in the Galapagos, especially, that he fell to speculating on the very origin of species that gave title to his revolutionary volume of 1859. Darwin's curious but quite understandable misinterpretation of the Fuegian Indians has only lately been cleared up (Esteban Lucas Bridges, *The Uttermost Part of the Earth*, 1949).

Observations in the South Seas led to an important volume on *The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs*, a subject that continues to occupy geologists and physiographers to the present day. The glimpses of the colonies of New Zealand and Australia more than a century ago are of especial interest, as is his account of his own reactions to the slave-holding society of Brazil.

The perspective of time has increased rather than lessened the importance of Charles Darwin in the history of biology. In recent years two important additions have been made to the understanding of the growth of his ideas during the voyage of the *Beagle*. These are the publication in 1933 of the diary kept by Darwin on the voyage and the appearance of a volume of extracts from his notebooks and from family letters written by him during his absence, published by his granddaughter, Nora Barlow, in 1946. The facsimile of the first edition now made available completes this series from notebooks to diary to the complete *Journal*.

It has been the good fortune of a number of members of the staff of Chicago Natural History Museum to travel on Darwin's trail in Uruguay, in Tierra del Fuego, on Chiloe Island, in the Galapagos, and on Tahiti. Our observations and collections from these regions were to amplify and extend the work that grew out of Darwin's pioneer collecting and to bring a representation of the fossils and of the animal species collected by Darwin to this Museum. With the *Journal of Researches* at hand, the earlier presence of the young Darwin lent a romantic glamor to these regions.

We can all attest to the value of Darwin's advice on the last pages of the *Journal*: "In conclusion, it appears to me that nothing can be more improving to a young naturalist, than a journey to distant countries. It both sharpens, and partly likewise allays that want and craving, which . . . a man experiences although every corporeal sense is fully satisfied. The excitement from the novelty of objects, and the chance of success, stimulate him to increased activity. Moreover as a number of isolated facts soon become uninteresting, the habit of comparison leads to generalization. . . . I have too deeply enjoyed the voyage, not to recommend any naturalist . . . to take any chances, and to start, on travels by land, if possible, if otherwise on a long voyage."

KARL P. SCHMIDT  
Chief Curator of Zoology





1954. "Freshwater Jellyfish Sensation Deflated." *Bulletin* 25(8), 6-6.

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