

A large work on the 1,500 mammals, with coloured plates of several species (notably the green and yellow monkey) and full details of all controversial points raised above is in the Press and shortly appearing as a volume of the *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* (24). The reptiles, Mollusca, Myriapoda and certain arachnid groups are not yet worked out in full.

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¹ See Sanderson, *Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 24 (in the Press).

² *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8), 12, 71.

³ *Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, 2, 25 (1935).

⁴ *Roy. Geog. Soc.*, 85, 2 (1935).

⁵ Parker, H. W., *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1, 135 (1936).

⁶ Sanderson, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1, 165 (1936).

⁷ Roewer (on Opiliones), *Veröff. Deuts. Kolon-u. Uebersee Mus.*, Bremen, 1 (1936).

⁸ Bayliss (on Parasitic Worms), *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (10), 17, 257 (1936).

Foam on the Dead Sea—and off the Mæander River

A FOAM-FORMATION like that described in *NATURE* of March 15, p. 468, is to be seen off the mouth of the Mæander (*Mendere*) River in western Asia Minor,

when the river is in flood. The turbid river water establishes a sharp frontier with the clear sea-water, and when the breeze is on-shore, the sea-water *breaks* on the river water with sufficient force to accumulate a band of foam, several inches wide, which in turn retains scum and floating debris from the river. The foam band is carried by wind and current into arc-forms, which are the more conspicuous by reason of the contrast of water-colour within and without. For the salt and fresh waters do not readily mix, and the summary deposition of the silt at the point where the flood water is checked probably explains the very steep gradient of the delta escarpment.

Checked in front, the flood water escapes along-shore and retains its café-au-lait hue for many miles. I have encountered it south of the channel between Kos and Kavvo-Krio (fifty miles), and west of Nikaria Island (sixty miles), according to the direction of the wind and resulting 'wind-rip' current. When the wind is between south-east and south-west, in the Ægean, the water is piled up to the north, and escapes by inshore channels; when the wind is in the north, the water is driven south, and is replaced by northerly currents inshore. Best known of these inshore currents is the famous and incalculable '*Gephyra*', between Eubœa and the mainland of Greece.

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Points from Foregoing Letters

PREPARATIONS of the succinic dehydrogenase are described by Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, C. Lutwak-Mann and E. J. Morgan which, while very active in reducing methylene blue, fail completely to induce an oxygen uptake in a system containing succinates, cytochrome *c* and cytochrome oxidase. It is clear, therefore, that some factor is necessary for transferring the hydrogen atoms activated by the enzymes to the cytochrome system.

M. Dixon and L. G. Zervas state that cytochrome *c* is not reduced by the purified lactic dehydrogenase system of yeast, but that an additional intermediary catalyst is necessary and that this may play an important part in cell-respiration.

C-hypovitaminosis can be recognized by blood-test, by determining the concentration of the vitamin in serum, before and after the intravenous injection of 300 mgm. of ascorbic acid. According to A. Göth, in case of saturation, the value determined after two hours should be at least twice that previously found; if less, hypovitaminosis dominates.

J. Houston and S. K. Kon find that, in addition to free vitamin B₁, milk contains the substance also in a bound form, most probably as a vitamin B₁-protein complex.

Of many types of lactic acid bacteria studied by J. G. Davis, H. J. Rogers and C. C. Thiel, only *Str. faecalis* and *Str. liquefaciens* invariably produced diacetyl from glucose, both under "resting" and under growing conditions. This finding is discussed in relation to the production of flavour in milk products.

Experiments indicating that progesterone has a greater ability of inhibiting the action of oestrone in the higher animals (baboon, monkey) than in lower animals (rabbit, mouse) are described by J. Gillman and H. B. Stein.

By analysis of the recoiling fragments of exploding uranium nuclei, E. Bretscher and L. G. Cook find that the existence of true 'trans-uranium' elements cannot generally be maintained. Results of observations on disintegration of thorium by neutrons are also given.

N. S. Bayliss and A. L. G. Rees find that the addition of foreign gases to bromine increases the intensity of the main bromine continuum by amounts from 7 per cent in the case of nitrogen to 25 per cent in the case of hydrogen chloride. The ultra-violet absorption of bromine is increased as much as ten-fold.

Defining *static interaction between particles* as the value of the interaction energy for zero particle velocity, E. C. G. Stueckelberg shows that for nuclear interaction its form is different from the static solution of the wave equation of the meson field.

Data submitted by D. H. Thompson show that the large-mouth black bass, *Huro salmoides*, introduced since 1929 in Lake Naivasha, Kenya, grows faster and is heavier than specimens of the same length in Illinois.

H. P. Traub and C. T. O'Rork, jun., find that pollen tubes enter the ovarian cavity of *Carica papaya* directly at the centre at the apical end, no matter which part of the stigma they started from. This explains the uniform distribution of the seeds in this and related families (Cucurbitaceæ).

Small amounts of ferrous iron (of the order of 0.1 per cent) have been extracted by V. Ignatieff from certain soils (black loam and podsol loam) which have been waterlogged for more than two months.

J. L. Myres points out that foam-formation like that described in *NATURE* of March 15, p. 468, in the Dead Sea occurs off the Mæander River in western Asia Minor, and is due to the breaking of the sea-water on the river water when the wind is on-shore.