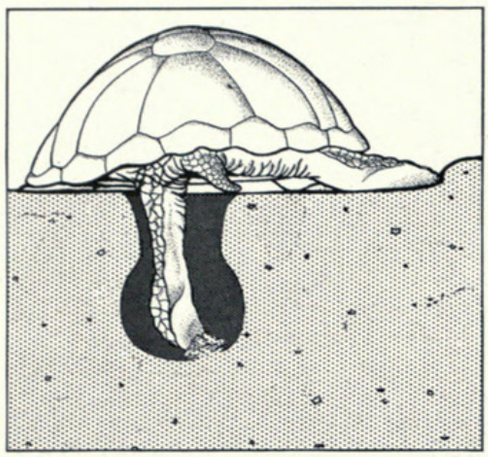
to the systematic exhibits of reptiles in Harris Hall. The backgrounds of both groups are panoramic landscapes by Staff Artist Arthur G. Rueckert. These two habitat groups result from collecting in the field and reconstruction in the Museum laboratories by Staff Taxidermist Walters, whose invention of a method of reproducing



DIGGING THE NEST

Diagram shows how the female loggerhead digs a flask-shaped nest in the sand with her scoop-like hind foot. After depositing more than a hundred eggs in it at the rate of one every few seconds, she uses her flippers to refill the cavity with sand, and then departs.

reptiles and amphibians in celluloid-like materials constitutes one of the most notable recent improvements in the art of taxidermy.

By the use of celluloid-like materials in making casts, with the coloring introduced into the translucent medium itself, the life-like translucent appearance of reptile scales or skin is produced; at the same time, since the finished cast does not require further painting, the full surface detail of the original mold is retained. The individual reptile models in the systematic exhibits in Hall 18 are the work of Mr. Walters, and are made by this process. Other notable exhibits made as celluloid models include the pig-like babirusa of Celebes in Hall 15, the hippopotamus and the white rhino in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall (Hall 22), and the group of Indian rhinoceros in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17).

This method of reproduction of reptiles and hairless mammals in cellulose-acetate or cellulose-nitrate, developed by Mr. Walters, is now widely known among museums as the "Walters Process."

Barber is Still Surgeon in Africa

Among African Negroes an itinerant barber sometimes acts as a surgeon. He relieves pain by "bleeding" or "cupping" with a hollow horn having a hole at the tip. The wide end of the horn is placed over a cut on the site of pain. The operator sucks air from the cup and plugs the hole at the tip of the cup with a pellet of wax which he pushes into position with the tip of his tongue. Bleeding continues until the cup is almost filled. Such horn cups are shown as part of a barber's outfit in the Hall of African Ethnology (Hall D), Case 21.

TYPE SPECIMEN OF THE LARGEST NORTH AMERICAN DINOSAUR

By ELMER S. RIGGS
CURATOR OF PALEONTOLOGY

One of the problems in handling fossils in a large museum is that of preserving specimens that are of peculiar scientific interest but are not sufficiently attractive to justify public exhibition. In this category may be included many "type specimens"—specimens which are the first of their kind to come to scientific notice and publication. They are given a name and therefore become a kind of standard bearer for their particular cohort in the system of scientific classification. Such specimens in vertebrate paleontology often consist of odd parts which chance to be the first of their kind to be found, and so are given the post of honor to bear the name and to serve as standards with which others in turn are to be compared in this process of classification.

Into such a category falls the type specimen (holotype) of the gigantic dinosaur, *Brachiosaurus*. It consists of a series of vertebrae, fourteen in all, which extended from the middle of the animal's back to a point near the base of the tail. With them are a single bone of the pelvis (ilium), a thigh bone, a bone of the upper foreleg, one from the breast, and four great ribs. The thigh-bone and the upper foreleg bone are each six feet eight inches in length and weigh several hundred pounds. Other parts of the animal are proportionately large. The longest rib is nine feet in length, and some ribs are six to seven inches in breadth.

In addition to the great size of this animal, its unusual proportions give it interest. Most large dinosaurs have the foreleg much shorter than the hind leg, but in this animal the proportions are reversed giving it something of a giraffe-like proportion. When first brought to this museum in 1900 the size of the bones attracted popular attention, while the unusual proportions greatly interested scientists. For many years it had the distinction of being "the largest known dinosaur."

Fourteen years later parts of a similar animal, a little larger even than this one, were found in East Africa; later still, bones of dinosaurs even more ponderous were reported from South America. So the championship as to size was passed along, but still Field Museum's specimen remained the "type" or standard for the name *Brachiosaurus*.

For many years the two great leg bones were exhibited standing upright on a base, and as many of the vertebrae as would fit in were installed in an upright case. As more and more dinosaurs came to be known, these odd bones became no longer objects of special interest and so their time came to be replaced by other exhibits. But the duty was incumbent upon the Museum and the paleontologists to preserve this type specimen for future study and comparison.

Accordingly, a larger glass-enclosed case has been built in one of the storerooms of an upper floor, and this half skeleton of the torso of *Brachiosaurus* has been assembled in it to be there preserved where any visiting scientist, or other person particularly interested in this type specimen, now outdated as an exhibit, may have permission to examine it.

FOUR MORE LECTURES IN SATURDAY SERIES

There remain to be given on Saturday afternoons during April four more of the lectures in Field Museum's spring course for adults. All of the lectures are illustrated with motion pictures, many of them in natural colors.

The lectures are to be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and each will begin at 2:30 P.M. The Theatre entrance will be open at 2 o'clock each Saturday. The demand for seats makes it necessary to restrict admission to adults; but on the mornings of the same Saturdays the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation will present free motion pictures especially for children.

Following are the dates, subjects, and speakers for the adult programs:

April 4—SCIENTIFIC DIVERSIONS IN PLANT LIFE.
Arthur Pillsbury.

April 11—PERU TODAY.
William B. Holmes.

April 18—THE PHILIPPINES.
Captain John D. Craig.

April 25—ADVENTURES WITH BIRDS.
Martin Bovey.

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats.

Requests for these seats should be made in advance by telephone (WABash 9410) or in writing, and reservations will then be held in the Member's name until 2:30 o'clock on the day of the lecture specified. All reserved seats which have not been claimed by 2:30 P.M. will be made available to the general public.

The cockroaches are one of our earliest families—the little pests have been on earth for at least 250 million years. See the huge extinct kinds that lived long ago, as reproduced in the Carboniferous Forest group in Ernest R. Graham Hall (Hall 38).