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Open Wide Please

young animals lacked the ability to detect the boundaries of the aquaria used in a laboratory setting, and continually bumped into the walls. This caused abrasions which became infected and caused the death of the young squid. The student was able to reduce the mortality rate somewhat by covering the walls of the aquaria with opaque material, but the problem is still not solved and much more research remains to be done. "We have to develop a body of knowledge, and this has to be constantly expanded," Dr. Abt explained, while telling the squid story.

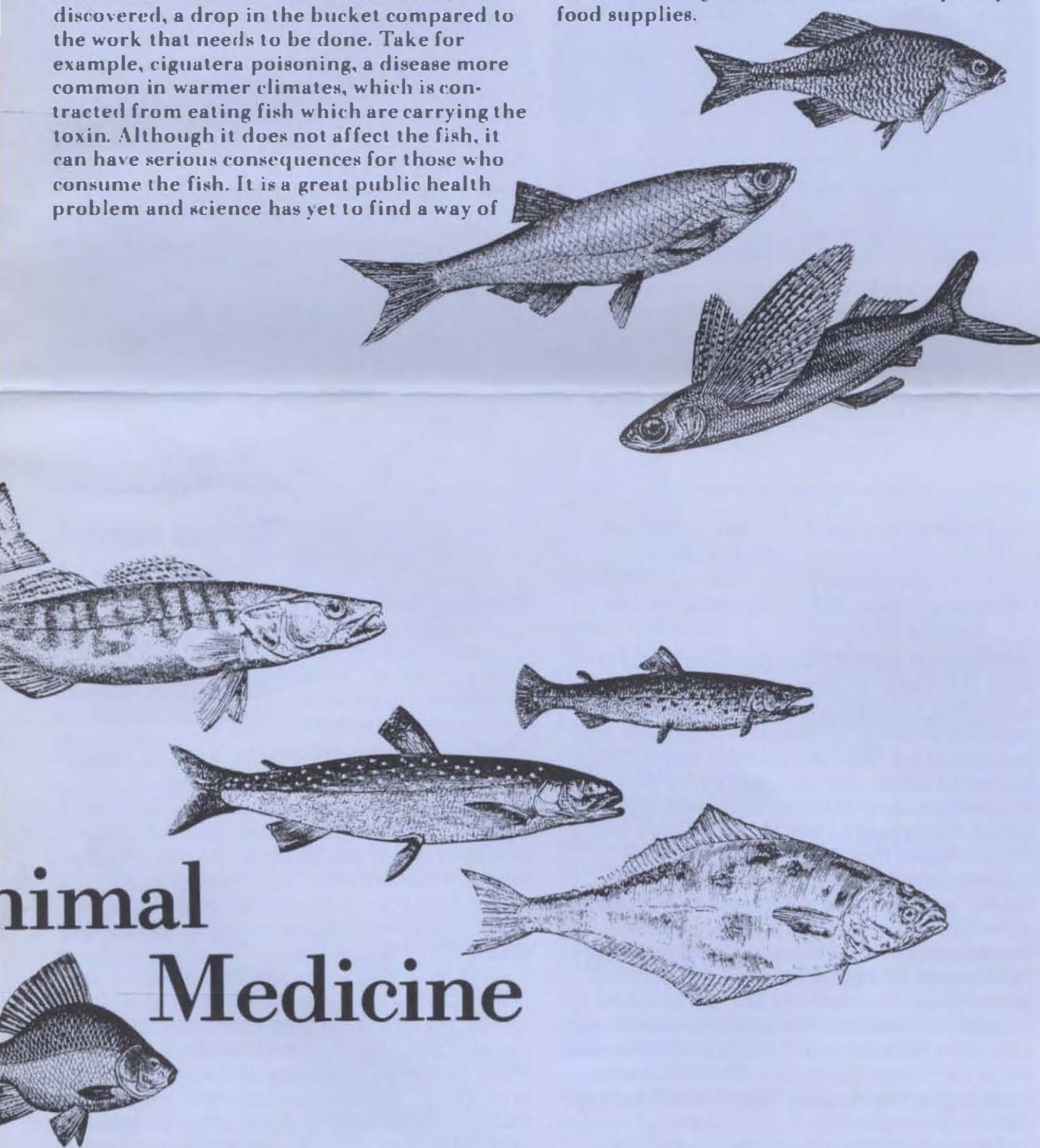
The work with marine animals has not only improved the understanding of such vital functions as neurotransmissions, it also has helped to provide insight into the mechanism of fertilization and cell development. Sea urchin research has contributed greatly to the basic knowledge of sperm-egg interaction and has proved relevant to cancer research and fertility regulation.

And the expansion of knowledge continues. Last year, at the year-around laboratory for the student of diseases of marine animals, established under Aquavet, five previously unidentified diseases of marine animals were discovered, a drop in the bucket compared to the work that needs to be done. Take for example, ciguatera poisoning, a disease more common in warmer climates, which is contracted from eating fish which are carrying the toxin. Although it does not affect the fish, it can have serious consequences for those who consume the fish. It is a great public health problem and science has yet to find a way of

identifying the toxin carriers. A bit closer to Pennsylvania, another problem has been Red Tide, a parasitic disease which caused the closure of many Eastern oyster and clam beds. Ciguatera and Red Tide are just two examples of the mysteries which need to be unraveled as man looks to the oceans as a continuing food source. Aquavet will play a vital role in solving those and many other problems.

Many of Aquavet's participants have graduated. Some are pursuing further studies in the field, some are doing research, and others are using the skills and knowledge gained at Woods Hole in private practice. Dr. Aht tells of two graduates who have devoted their practice to exotic animals and he envisions an increasing demand for veterinarians interested in aquatic animals as food sources, laboratory animals, or as companion animals.

To supply this demand, plans are being made to introduce courses on marine animals in the regular curriculum of the School of Veterinary Medicine. This will broaden the base established by Aquavet, and perpetuate knowledge in a specialty of great importance, if marine animals are to continue their vital role in meeting the world's needs for quality food supplies.



Animal Medicine

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The School of Veterinary Medicine, in collaboration with the School of Dental Medicine, have inaugurated a new program of Veterinary Dental Medicine. Courses in Comparative Oral Form and Function and Comparative Oral Pathology and Treatment are being offered to familiarize students with the hard and soft tissues of the head and neck and with dental functions in different mammalian species. The courses provide information on the pathology and treatment of oral problems in humans and animals. In addition, a veterinary dental clinic is open at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP), staffed by members of both faculties. Students will have the opportunity to observe and practice basic dental care on both companion and exotic animals. A large animal dental service is being planned at New Bolton Center for a spring 1982 opening. The third component of the program is interdisciplinary research in dental medicine with an emphasis on technology transfer, development of new animal models for human disease, and improved understanding and treatment methods for animal oral problems.

Information about the program may be obtained by contacting the Program Director, Dr. David Roberts, School of Dental Medicine, Clinical Research Center, 4001 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Sculpture Gift



At a meeting of the Veterinary School's Board of Overseers on September 18, 1981, Dr. David E. Rogers, a new member of the Board, presented a striking wood sculpture to Dean Robert Marshak. Carved by Dr. Rogers from a solid block of buttonwood, it represents the relationship between man and his companion animals.

The sculpture, titled *The Bond*, may be seen in the reception area of the new Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rogers is president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a former dean of the Medical School of Johns Hopkins University.