

THE COELACANTH

The coelacanth was once an "index fossil" — but on December 25 1938 all that changed. On that date, a trawler fishing off South Africa brought up an odd fish about 5 feet long. Its fins were attached to fleshy lobes rather than directly to the body. Fortunately, a South-African zoologist, *J.L.B. Smith, was able to examine it — and discovered it was the coelacanth, a "primitive fish" which evolutionists said had been dead and gone for 70 million years! Here was a living specimen of a creature that was supposed to have disappeared from the earth before the dinosaurs reached their prime!

World War II halted the search for more coelacanths, but in 1952 another one was found, and since then many more. Because it is a deep water fish, it dies soon after being brought to the surface.

The coelacanth is an outstanding demonstration of the fact that the long-age theory of sedimentary rock strata cannot be true.

