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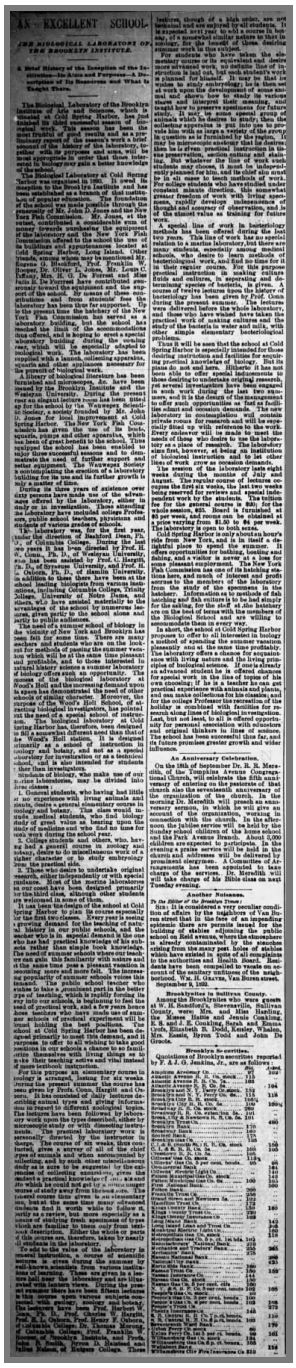

AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL.

THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE.

A Brief History of the Inception of the Institution—Its Aims and Purposes—A Description of Its Resources and What Is Taught There.

The Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, which is located at Cold Spring Harbor, has just finished its third successful season of instruction. This season has been the most fruitful of good results and in consequence of the increase in the size and amount of the library of the laboratory, together with its purposes and aims, will be read appropriate in order that those interested in biology may gain a better knowledge of its work.

The Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor was organized in 1890. It owed its inception to the Brooklyn Institute and has been established as a branch of that institution of popular education. The foundation of the school was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Morris K. Jesup, of the New York Park Commission. Mr. Jesup, at the outset, contributed a considerable sum of money towards purchasing the equipment of the laboratory and the New York Fish Commission offered to the school the use of its buildings and apparatus on the shore of Cold Spring Harbor, on Long Island. Other friends, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Eugene G. Blackford, Prof. Franklin W. Hooper, Dr. Oliver L. Jones, Mr. Lewis C. Tiffany, Mrs. H. G. De Forest and Miss Anna B. De Forest, have contributed to the support of the school and the equipment and the expenses of the school. By means of these contributions and from students' fees the laboratory has been thus far supported. Up to the present time the hatchery of the New York Fish Commission has served as a laboratory. The Brooklyn Institute has erected the finest of the accommodations thus offered, and is hoping to erect a special laboratory building during the coming year, which will be especially adapted to biological work. The laboratory has been supplied with a launch, collecting apparatus, aquaria and other material necessary for the pursuit of biological work.

A library of biological literature has been furnished and microscopes, &c. have been loaned by the Brooklyn Institute and the Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia. During the last season a singular incident occurred last June which resulted in a passenger being detained, a society founded by Mr. John D. Jones for local improvement at Cold Spring Harbor. The New York Fish Commission has given the use of its boats, which have been of great service, and the various personal benefits to the school. Thus equipped the school has been enabled to enjoy three successful seasons and to demonstrate the need of further support and better equipment. The Wagner Society is contemplating the erection of a laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor as further growth is only a matter of time.

During its three years of existence over sixty persons have made use of the advantages offered by the laboratory, either in study or in investigation. Those attending the laboratory have included college Professors, graduate students, undergraduates and students of various grades of schools.

The laboratory was, for the first year, under the direction of Bashford Dean, Ph. D., of Columbia College. During the last two years it has been directed by Frederic W. Conn., Ph. D., of Wesleyan University, and Prof. Henry E. Crampton, A. M., Ph. D., of Syracuse University, and Prof. H. L. Osborn, Ph. D., of Hamilton University, in addition to these there have been at the school leading biologists from various institutions, including Columbia College, Yale University, Johns Hopkins University and Mount Holyoke College. The latter have contributed materially to the arrangements of the school by numerous lectures, given partly to the school alone and partly to public audiences.

The need of a summer school of biology in the vicinity of New York has been felt for some time. There are many teachers and students who are on the lookout for methods of passing the summer vacation which will be of the same time pleasant and profitable, and to those interested in natural history science a summer laboratory of biology has long been a desideratum. The Marine Biological laboratory at Woods Holl and the increasing demand upon it again has demonstrated the need of other schools of similar character. Moreover, the purpose of the Woods Holl School, of attracting biological investigators, has prior to the opening of the Cold Spring Harbor school. The biological laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor has, therefore, been designed to fill a somewhat different need than that of the Woods Holl station. It is designed primarily as a school of instruction in zoology and botany, and not as a special school of research, although it is a research school, and is also intended for students other than investigators.

Students of biology, who make use of our nine laboratories, may be divided into three classes:

1. General students, who having had little or no training in biology, desire a summer course in zoology and botany. This class would include medical students, who find biology study of great value as bearing upon the care of medicine and who find no time for such work during the school year.

2. Those students, who have had, who having had a general course in zoology and botany, desire to do miscellaneous work of a higher character or to study embryology from the practical side.

3. Those who desire to undertake original research. Higher laboratory or with special reference to any of the marine laboratories as our coast have been designed primarily for the third class, although other students are welcomed in some of them.

It has been the design of the school at Cold Spring Harbor to plan the course so as to meet the needs of the first class. To any class of students desiring demand for the teaching of natural history in our public schools, and the teacher who is in especial demand is the one who has had practical knowledge of his subjects rather than simple book knowledge. Such knowledge can be gained only by actual contact with the objects with nature and at the same time pass a pleasant vacation in charming scenes and more full. The increasing popularity of summer schools voices this demand. The public school teacher who wishes to take a prominent part in the better work which is now being introduced into many of our schools, is beginning to feel the need of practical work, and a few years hence those teachers who have made use of summer schools of practical experiment will be found holding the best positions. The school at Cold Spring Harbor has been designed especially with this class in mind. It proposes to offer to all wishing to take good positions in our schools a chance to so familiarize themselves with living things as to make their teaching active and vital instead of mere textbook instruction.

To this purpose an elementary course in botany and zoology, which has been given during the present summer, the course has been given by Profs. Conn, Hargitt and Crampton. It has consisted of daily lectures describing animal types and giving information concerning the habits of animals. The lectures have been followed by laboratory work upon the types described, either by microscopic study or with dissecting instruments. The practical laboratory work is personally directed by the instructor in charge. The course of six weeks, thus consisted of lectures upon the habits and types of animals and plants accompanied by collecting, and by such other miscellaneous study as is sure to be suggested by the exercises of collecting excursions, given the student's practical knowledge of [illegible], and also which he could not get in a more longer course. The course is designed to be an elementary one, but at the same time many advanced students find it worth while to follow it, partly as a review, but more especially as a course of studying fresh specimens of types which are familiar to them only from text-books and museum specimens. The success of this course can, therefore, be taken by nearly all students in the laboratory.

To add to the value of the laboratory in general instruction, a course of scientific lectures has been given by a number of well-known scientists from various institutions of learning. These are given in a lecture hall near the laboratory and are illustrated with lantern views. During the present summer there have been fifteen lectures upon various subjects connected with biology given by the following lecturers: Prof. Herbert W. Conn, Ph. D., Prof. Charles W. Hargitt, Prof. H. L. Osborn, Prof. Henry E. Crampton, of Columbia College, Dr. Thomas Mayo, of the Brooklyn Medical College, Dr. Lewis Balsley, of Brooklyn, Dr. Daniel Lee, Dr. Julius Pohlson, of Rutgers College. These lectures, though of a high order, are not technical and are enjoyed by all students. It is essential, however, to add a course in botany, of a somewhat similar nature to that in zoology, in order that those desiring summer work in the subject.

For students who have taken the elementary course or its equivalent and desire more advanced work, no definite line of instruction is laid out, but each student's work is planned for him, and a way to that he may be benefited by the work. The course of work upon the development of some animal and shown how to study its various stages and interpret their meaning, and taught how to preserve specimens for future study. Each student is encouraged to work out subjects which he desires to study, then the collecting apparatus is put into use to provide him with as large a variety of the group in question as is furnished by the region. It may be microscopic anatomy that he desires, then he is given practical instruction in the methods of preparing and staining. But whatever the line of work each student may choose, it must be independently planned for him, and he shall also study in all cases to teach methods of work. For no course student who has finished under consideration should be left to himself, but rapidly develop independence of thought and accuracy of observation, and is of the utmost value as training for future work.

A special line of work in bacteriology methods has been offered during the last two years. This line of work has no special relation to a marine laboratory, but there are many students, especially among medical schools, who desire to learn methods of bacteriological work, and find no time for it during the school year. For this reason a practical instruction in making culture fluids and cultures, in separating and determining species of bacteria, is given. A course of twelve lectures upon the history of bacteriology has been given by Prof. Conn during the present summer. The lectures are illustrated by lantern views, and those who have wished have taken the practical work of making cultures and the study of the bacteria in water and milk, with other simple elementary bacteriological work.

From it will be seen that the school at Cold Spring Harbor is especially intended for those desiring instruction and facilities for securing practical knowledge of biology. But its plans do not end here. Hitherto it has not been able to offer special inducements to those wishing to pursue original research, but several investigations have been engaged in each work during the last two seasons, and it is the design of the management to offer such opportunities as fast as facilities admit and occasion demands. The new laboratory in contemplation will contain rooms for investigators, which will be specially fitted up with reference to the work. Every endeavor will be made to meet the needs of those who desire to use the laboratory as a place of research. The laboratory aims first, however, at being an institution of biological instruction and to let other work be secondary to this purpose.

The season of the laboratory lasts eight weeks during the months of July and August. The regular course of lectures occupies the first six weeks, the last two weeks being reserved for reviews and special independent work by the students. The tuition fee for the course of lectures is $15, for the whole session, $25. Board is furnished at $6 per week, and rooms can be obtained at a price varying from $1.00 to $4 per week. The laboratory is open to both sexes.

Cold Spring Harbor is only a twenty hour's ride from New York, and is in itself a delightful place of summer resort. It offers opportunities for bathing, boating and fishing, and a visitor is never at a loss for some pleasant entertainment. The New York Fish Commission has one of its hatching stations here, and the laboratory will be open to any members of the laboratory for the study of the specimens in the hatchery. Information as to methods of fish hatching and fish culture is to be had simply for the asking, for the staff at the laboratory are on the best of terms with the members of the hatchery staff, and are willing to accommodate them in every way.

In short, the school at Cold Spring Harbor proposes to offer to all interested in biology a method of spending the summer vacation pleasantly and at the same time profitably. The laboratory offers a chance for acquaintance with the animals and plants and principles of biological science. If one is already an advanced student he is offered chances for special work in the line of topics of his own choosing; if he is a teacher he can get practical experience with animals and plants and can make collections for his classes; and if he is a general student the laboratory and holiday is combined with facilities for research along lines of biological investigation. Last, but not least, to all is offered opportunity for personal association with scientists and original thinkers in lines of science. The school has been successful thus far, and in future promises greater growth and wider influence.

An Anniversary Celebration.

On the 15th of September Dr. R. S. Mersereau, of the Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the organization of that church. Also the seventeenth anniversary of the organization of the church. In the morning Dr. Meredith will preach an anniversary sermon, in which he will give an account of the history of the church in connection with the church. In the afternoon, the jubilee service will be held by the Sunday school children of the home school and the Park Avenue Branch. About 5,000 children are expected to participate. In the evening a grand service will be held in the church, at which a number of prominent clergymen. A Committee of Arrangements has been appointed to take charge of the services. Dr. Meredith will also take charge of his Bible class on next Tuesday evening.

Another Nuisance.

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Times:

SIR: It is considered a very peculiar condition of affairs by the residents of Van Brunt street that in the face of an impending sanitary crisis, the authorities allow the building of stables adjoining the public school on Reid avenue, where the atmosphere is already contaminated by the stenches arising from the many past holes of stables which have existed in spite of all complaints to the authorities and Health Board. Residents of Van Brunt street are also in close proximity of the sanitary nuisance of the neighborhood. WM. H. GRAHM, Van Brunt street.
September 9, 1892.

Brooklynites in Sullivan County.

Among the Brooklynites who were guests at W. H. Sandford's, Stevensville, Sullivan County, were, Mrs. and Miss Harding, the Misses Hattie and Jennie Conkling, Mrs. Cook, Miss Cook, Ralph and Conner Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Master Wesley Wallace, Mrs. Koons, Byron Todd and John De Grecia.

Brooklyn Securities.

Quotations of Brooklyn securities reported by F. A. J. G. Jenkins, Jr., are as follows:

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