

SCRIPPS INSTITUTION FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

LA JOLLA, July 1, 1912.

To the President of the University,

SIR: A memoir on the Institution was published in March of the present year.* In view of the information thus made available the report now submitted may be restricted to a brief presentation of matters especially important at this moment.

The transfer of the "whole of the properties, rights, and privileges" of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego to the Regents of the University of California has recently been made. This was done in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Board of Regents on February 13, 1912, and with an empowering provision of the articles of incorporation of the association, and a resolution adopted at a special meeting of the Association held February 23, 1912. The actual taking over of the management of the institution and the change of name date from July 1, 1912, the beginning of the university's fiscal year.

The report of the special committee of the regents, consisting of President Wheeler and Regents McKinley and Earl (chairman of the Finance Committee), the approval of which by the board of regents constituted the acceptance of the institution by the university, contains the following: "The Regents of the University of California and the officers of the University appreciate fully the importance of the work being done at the

*The Marine Biological Station of San Diego. Its History, Present Conditions, Achievements, and Aims, by Wm. E. Ritter, Scientific Director. Univ. of Calif. Publ. in Zool., vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 137-248, pls. 18-24, and 2 maps, March 9, 1912. Persons desiring particularized knowledge about the Institution may obtain copies of this memoir by applying to the director at La Jolla, California.

Marine Biological Station of San Diego, and of the great value, present and prospective, of the properties acquired and held by your Association in connection therewith. . . . In the event that a transfer of the property is made by your Association to the Regents of the University of California, it will be accepted by the Regents of the University of California in trust for the following purposes:

“1. To become a department of the University co-ordinate with its already existing departments. . . .

“2. During the lifetime of Miss Ellen B. Scripps . . . the management and control of affairs of the Station and properties shall be in the hands of a local board at San Diego consisting of Miss Ellen B. Scripps, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, E. W. Scripps, and William E. Ritter, and such other persons as may be mutually agreed upon by them, with authority to name an executive committee of three members.

“3. That . . . while the affairs of the Station are under the control of such local board, and thereafter, the Regents and officers of the University will use their best efforts to secure the largest possible State appropriations to promote the work of the Station.

“4. Whenever funds of the University are available for the purpose the same will be devoted to the work and development of the Station.

“5. The official designation of the Station shall be ‘The Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California.’

“6. The Station and the properties of your Association will be accepted by the Regents of the University of California in trust for the purposes of making it, as a part of the University of California, an instrument for the most liberal biological research and the free expression and publication of the results of such research, as intended by the founders.”

This passage of the station from the hands of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego where it grew so well, into those of the regents of the University of California, to become an organic part of the university, and thus of the state of Cali-

fornia, may be reckoned as the passage from childhood to full-fledged youth; and it is confidently expected that an increased strength and usefulness similar to that which distinguishes the youth from the child, will mark the career of the station in the years of the immediate future.

One may hope that the dropping of the word "marine" from the name will not be taken to mean that a relinquishment or even curtailment of researches at sea is contemplated. The reason for the change was that those chiefly responsible for the enterprise, whether as financial supporters or essential custodians, had become fully convinced that biology in the largest sense ought to be the aim of this particular foundation. It is not to be supposed that anyone connected with the institution contemplates researches in the whole range of the sciences of organic being, particularly at any one time. It is believed, however, that an endowed institution with no specified limit of duration, ought to have the utmost freedom as to the particular provinces of the vast domain of biology that it should cultivate at different periods of its existence.

The word "research" was put into the new name not for the purpose of announcing a positive abandonment of all effort other than investigation in the narrowest, most rigorous sense; but rather from the mature conviction that whatever work may now or hereafter be taken up, should be based upon, and so subordinate, to research. Whether or not distinctly new researches will be inaugurated in the immediate future must depend entirely on the funds available for operating expenses. There can be no thought at present of diverting into new channels the working force and money devoted to the investigations which now are, and for several years have been under way. Both the results themselves and expressions of men of science in various parts of the world, indicate clearly that to do this would be a serious mistake.

Although it is unnecessary to set forth here, even in outline, either the results being reached by the Institution's programme of work, or the methods employed, I cannot forbear reference to the intelligence, skill, and devotion with which those primarily

responsible for the work at sea (Mr. W. C. Crandall, Captain of the *Alexander Agassiz*, Mr. E. L. Michael, and Dr. G. F. McEwen) have planned and executed the difficult tasks that have fallen to them during the last four or five years.

Owing to the fact that a pier sufficiently long to carry the salt-water in-take pipe well beyond the surf, and also for landing the collecting boats, is essential for operating the research aquaria; and the further fact that the building funds have so far been insufficient to meet the large expense of erecting such a pier, those aspects of the research programme dependent upon laboratory-aquarium experimentation have not been taken up. But the observational and statistical aspects of the program have thus far so fully occupied the time of the investigators that the absence of aquarium facilities has not seriously hampered the work. However the time is soon coming when the aquaria will be indispensable; and fortunately, again through the interest and generosity of Miss Ellen B. Scripps, the pier and salt water pumping plant will be provided, probably during the present summer and fall.

The time is also near at hand when the rooms in the laboratory building now occupied as a residence by the director's family will be needed for the purpose for which they were constructed—the scientific work of the institution. It will likewise soon be impossible or at least extremely detrimental to the work, for the members of the scientific staff to reside in La Jolla two miles away, and carry on their investigations at the laboratory. These difficulties can be overcome only by dwelling places on the institution grounds near the laboratory. Realizing this Miss Scripps has signified her readiness to provide the funds for the erection of the necessary residential quarters. This improvement will be begun as soon as a plan of procedure and necessary survey and laying out of the grounds can be accomplished.

One of the most serious handicaps on the work of the institution has always been the incompleteness of the library. This defect will now be remedied to a large extent, this item being one of those for which additional funds are to be provided by Miss Scripps.

The present moment when the institution is about to enter upon another period of physical development, and is passing under a new business management, seems opportune for repeating what I have said many times in the last two or three years, namely, that on the business side the institution will have, or ought to have, a large real estate enterprise on its hands in a few years. That the 170-acre tract of land owned by the institution may be made income-producing in the not distant future seems certain. In the memoir above referred to I have given at some length the grounds of belief in such a possibility. After calling attention to the great growth in population and wealth that has occurred in southern California, particularly along the ocean's edge, during the last two decades, I say: "Looking at the situation in the broadest way, taking account of physical, industrial, social, and intellectual tendencies and possibilities, as well as of the scientific purposes of the Station, it may be confidently held that every dollar put into the upbuilding of the institution as an instrument for scientific research and general enlightenment may be made to count also as investment for enlarging the income applicable to the scientific work."

The erection of a pier, and cottages near the laboratory as homes for those connected with the institution, will constitute an important step toward starting the colony on the land; and upon this income production must depend. This step having been taken, solution of the transportation problem would carry us well forward toward realizing the endowment value of the property.

The plan of non-resident members of the investigating staff has now been in vogue long enough to show somewhat definitely how it works. In the most favorable cases there can be no question about its advantageousness not only to the institution but likewise to the investigators. By this means an amount and a quality of service has been secured that with the present limited income, would have been otherwise impossible. The advantage to the investigators has been primarily in opportunities that would have been out of the question under any other conditions. The chance for a young scientist equipped and ambitious for research, but compelled to rely mainly on a teaching position

for his living, to associate himself with a research institution that can put into his hands some large problem with facilities for pursuing it year after year, is not likely to remain long ungrasped in a community where men of the sort indicated are found. Nor can the advantage to the schools with which such scientists are connected be inconsiderable if the relations are kept on a proper basis.

I have said that "in the most favorable cases" the non-resident scheme works well. The most favorable cases are those in which the non-resident is not located too far from La Jolla, and in which considerable of the work is of such a nature that the investigator may prosecute it at home in his own laboratory. Some of the problems upon which the institution is occupied are of such nature that little can be done upon them to advantage elsewhere than at La Jolla.

What attitude the institution should take on the question of making its facilities available to investigators not connected with any of its regular activities but who may wish to pursue their individual studies at La Jolla, has never been definitely formulated, but should be as soon as the aquaria are in operation and the problems of transportation and domicile at the institution are solved.

Similarly the question of provision for students who may wish to spend some time at the institution in preparation for their careers as professional scientists, should receive attention in the near future. This is particularly desirable as concerns students who, as candidates for higher degrees in the university, may wish to reside for a time at La Jolla.

As stated at the beginning, information regarding the institution's aims, general and special, its history and resources, the scientific results attained, its methods of work at sea, and details concerning apparatus, equipment, etc., may be obtained from the memoir there mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. E. RITTER,
Director.