

author of the laboratory guide book, rather than the needs of the student. Where there is a choice between two forms that are equally good in developing the ideas of structure or physiological processes, the local or more generally known form should always be preferred. Obvious as this may appear, there are a number of instances where exotic or marine forms are used where fresh-water local specimens are available.

The data submitted showed that there was a very wide range in the time given to the course, that there was nevertheless a tendency to limit the number of hours to five or six a week for one year. Whatever the number of hours may be, there is, in so many colleges, an undue importance placed upon the value of lectures as against the value of self-expression either in the laboratory or in the recitation. If our message is to study nature, not books, even if it appears necessary to study nature through the artificial medium of the laboratory, as much time should be given to the study of organisms at first hand as circumstances warrant. It is exceedingly difficult to state what proportion of the time should be spent in the lecture, laboratory and recitation. It is easier to state what is wrong than what is right. It seems to the writer at least that two hours in the lecture room and two hours in the laboratory placed a disproportionate emphasis upon a knowledge about, rather than of, nature. Yet in twelve colleges this is the situation.

Even more surprising is the lack of appreciation of the value of the recitation in such an introductory course. In nine colleges, for example, no opportunity is offered for self-expression on the part of the student, or for determining how far the student has grasped the ideas, or to what extent the course is adapted to the needs of the particular group of students, but more important even than these is the opportunity offered by the properly conducted recitation to let the student appreciate the method of scientific thinking and the numberless unanswered problems that the biologist is wrestling with. In seven colleges only occasional recitations are held; in

four colleges the recitations extend not more than a half hour a week.

It is to be hoped that the reserve that has so long prompted many excellent teachers and biologists to withhold from their colleagues the results of their many years of experimentation and thought upon the teaching of introductory biology, may be set aside and that appropriate means be found for an exchange of experiences. If arousing and developing a wholesome interest in biology is an important part of our duties in the colleges or universities, should we not cooperate in aiding one another in this important work. At worst, we can agree to differ.

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MEXICAN ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

A GREATER impetus will be given to the International School of American Archeology and Ethnology in the city of Mexico in this, the fourth year of its existence. The members have been added to and the fund for its use will be increased so as to permit of larger activities and explorations. The school was founded in 1910 by the governments of Mexico and Prussia, Columbia University, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and the Hispano Society of America, under the initiative of Columbia. In the second year of the school the government of Russia, through the Imperial Academy of Sciences, and the government of Bavaria, joined the school, and in the third year the government of Austria and the city of Leipzig, through its ethnological museum, joined it. During the first year the budget of the school, including salaries and fellowships, amounted to \$6,000, in the second and third years to \$10,000 each, and in the coming year it will be \$12,000, of which amount Mexico contributes \$3,000 and two \$500 fellowships. No elementary or popular instruction is given in the school, but opportunity is offered to advanced students to familiarize themselves with the problems of Mexican archeology and ethnology, and to understand researches in these fields. The objects collected by the school are

placed at the disposal of the National Museum of Mexico, to make such selections as it thinks desirable and the remainder becomes the property of the patrons of the school. The first director of the school was Professor Edward Seler, of Berlin, appointed by Prussia; the second was Professor Franz Boas, of New York, appointed by Columbia; the third was Professor Jorge Engerrand, of Mexico, appointed by Mexico, and the fourth will be Professor A. M. Tozzer, appointed by Harvard.

It has been the endeavor of the successive directors to organize the work of the school in such a way as to concentrate the energies of the school on a few carefully selected tasks. Professor Seler undertook an investigation of the ruins of Palenque and of some of the less-known ruins of Yucatan, and, after the completion of this work, inaugurated investigations on the archeological types of the valley of Mexico. In the same year Professor Boas devoted some time to linguistic studies on the dialects of the Nahuatl. In the second year the archeological studies in the valley of Mexico were continued, and a series of stratigraphical examinations of sites was undertaken. These led to the discovery of a regular sequence of three cultural types, the presence of which was known before, although their relative ages had not been determined, and pointed out the need of extended stratigraphical investigations in the valley of Mexico. Remains were found deep below the level of the lakes of the valley of Mexico, showing the great antiquity of the various types of culture. On the hills, sites were discovered in which the oldest type of culture appeared on the surface. The investigation of the dialects of Mexico was continued, particularly through studies on the southern dialects of the Nahuatl. Studies on Mexican folklore were also taken up, which yielded the most abundant and interesting results, suggesting the most curious interrelations between the folklore of Spain, Africa and America, and suggesting a much more important influence of Spanish folklore upon American tradition than has generally been assumed to exist. In the third year, Professor Engerrand continued similar lines of

work. Under his direction the stratigraphical work was continued on a large scale in the valley of Mexico, and yielded most interesting results, clearing up still further the historical relation between the three cultural types. A comparative study was also made in the state of Colima. One of the fellows of the school who worked under his direction made a large folkloristic collection in Oaxaca, and studied the Huastec, one of the isolated languages of that area, which he proved to be related to the Mixtec. Another fellow continued his studies on the language, religion and folklore of the Tepehuanos, a Pima tribe in northern Jalisco. The importance of the stratigraphical work conducted by the school has proved so great that the Geological Institute of Mexico is now continuing this enterprise on a large scale by means of borings. During the coming year, under the direction of Professor Tozzer, the stratigraphical work in the valley of Mexico will be continued, and the study of folklore will receive particular attention. The studies on the Nahuatl dialects will also be continued.

THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

THE forty-third annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society was held in Boston from September 8 to 11 under the presidency of Dr. C. H. Townsend, of the New York Aquarium. Dr. Henry B. Ward, of the University of Illinois, was vice-president, and the vice-presidents of divisions were as follows: Fish Culture, James Nevin, Madison, Wis.; Aquatic Biology and Physics, L. L. Dyche, Pratt, Kan.; Commercial Fishing, W. J. Hunsaker, Saginaw, Mich.; Angling, H. Wheeler Perce, Chicago, Ill.; Protection and Legislation, Dr. T. S. Palmer, Washington, D. C. The program of scientific papers was as follows:

William P. Seal: "Suggestions of possible interest to the American Fisheries Society and to Fish Commissions."

Dr. C. H. Townsend, director, New York Aquarium: "The Private Fish Pond—a neglected resource." Recent Progress in Oceanography.

F. F. Dimick, secretary, Boston Fish Bureau: "The Fish Trade Organizations."