

THE Lake Laboratory, which is now permanently located at Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie, will open for the summer of 1920 on June 21. Its facilities will be available for investigators until the middle of August. Courses for students in both plant and animal ecology, entomology, the structure of fresh-water vertebrates, and in ichthyology will be conducted until August 1. The staff will be composed of Professor R. C. Osborn, director, Dr. F. H. Kreeker, acting director, Professor S. R. Williams, of Miami University, Professor M. E. Stickney, of Dennison University, and Dr. C. H. Kennedy, of the Ohio State University. Some studies on fisheries problems were carried on last year and others are to be started during the coming session. It is desired to have the laboratory as well supplied as possible with recent biological literature and therefore investigators will be of direct service to the laboratory by including it in their mailing list. All reprints of such articles and all correspondence should be addressed to the Lake Laboratory, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A BILL recently passed by the Maryland legislature combines the Maryland State College of Agriculture with the University of Maryland School of Medicine under the name of the University of Maryland. The legislature appropriated \$42,500, each year, for the medical school for the next two years and in addition appropriated \$186,476 for the other departments of the university for 1921, and \$165,416 for 1922. An appropriation of \$203,000 was made for buildings and equipment.

DR. WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, of the General Chemical Company, has given \$100,000 toward the endowment fund of New York University.

It is planned to erect a new chemistry building at Dartmouth College, which will involve an expenditure of about \$350,000. Construction will be begun immediately.

THE board of trustees of the College of the City of New York has authorized the granting of degrees of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineer on the satisfactory completion of a curriculum requiring five years. The announcement of the details of the curricula will shortly be issued. This is one of the steps taken by the College of the City of New York in the direction of closer cooperation between industry and colleges and colleges and universities.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GEORGE E. NICHOLS, of Yale University, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the University of Michigan Biological Station for the coming summer session.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SINGING SANDS

PROFESSOR RICHARDSON's recent article about "Singing Sands" of Lake Michigan, suggests to me that in analyzing the beach sands the students may have taken needless trouble, for the cause is certainly not dependent on their composition.

The fascinating pages of Marco Polo have numerous references to this phenomena, more or less exaggerated and tinged with superstition, and many travelers have discussed and some scientists have studied it.

A volume by Hanns Vischer confirms the previous statements of Commandant Gadel, Concerning the "voice of the mountain" near the oasis of Bilma, he, Vischer, says:

There is a dark and forbidding rock frowning over Bilma near the southern end of the oasis. This mountain warns the inhabitants of the approaching arrival of a caravan; when it "sings" the men then know that a caravan is close at hand. The noise is produced by the blowing of the wind from a certain direction through crevices of the torn rock.

Says Gadel:

On the sixth of October in the morning, the old Liman came to tell me that the mountain had spoken. On the eighth of October, at ten in the morning, the first Asbin caravan arrived, consisting of 4,851 camels and 857 men. The mountain had not lied.