It would be interesting in this connection to analyze the counts by months of sunspots through several cycles to find whether there is any evidence of a short-period variation of this length, no matter how small. I hope to be able to do this within the next few months.

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SOME MICRO-PLANKTON FROM SALTON SEA

As is generally known Salton Sea is a body of water covering a part of the Imperial Valley in southern California which is 230 feet below sea level, and it is formed by overflow of flood waters, or by waters diverted for irrigation, from the delta of the Colorado River.

On December 16, 1919, Captain W. C. Crandall, of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California, Dr. H. C. Bryant, of the California State Fish and Game Commission, and of the museum of vertebrate zoology of the University of California, and Dr. Will F. Thompson, of the California State Fish and Game Commission, started over the recently completed San Diego and Arizona railroad for a four days' biological investigation of Salton Sea.

Captain Crandall made a few plankton catches in Salton Sea and secured a number of water samples, temperatures, etc., besides making some rough physiographic observations. Dr. Bryant found about fifty different kinds of birds. Dr. Thompson's fishing equipment did not get through so he was not able to make the expected studies of fish. It was found, however, that Salton Sea is regularly fished for mullet which reach large size and are found in commercial quantities at present.

Four hauls were made for microplankton in Salton Sea with a fine (Number 25) silk net such as has been in use for some time for marine work. The catches thus made were purely qualitative and were taken at the surface under adverse conditions. One catch indicated a rather abundant microplankton. Catches made at other points showed very little. The presence of the following organisms was noted in a hasty examination of the catches: *Keratella quadrata* (Müller), *Brachionus pala* Ehr., (most of these had female eggs attached), *Anabœna* sp., *Oscillatoria* sp., *Cœlastrum* sp., *Amphiprora alata* Kuetz., *Fragillaria crotonensis* Kitton, *Navicula* sp., and *Surirella* sp.

Physiographic features of Salton Sea are very remarkable. There has been a fairly constant reduction of level at the rate of about one foot per year for some years. Consequent recession of the water has left exposed numerous mud geysers, hot and cold springs, various types of mineral springs and some excellent paint pigments almost ready for use. In the sea itself, near the mouths of its tributaries, it is notable that the water is in two layers, the heavy saline water below and the relatively fresh above. It thus resembles ocean conditions near tributaries.

The primary purpose of this memorandum is to call general attention to the fact that the Salton Sea locality offers extraordinary favorable conditions for continuous studies throughout the year in the lines of physiography, hydrography and biology. Since the microplankton is the biological group which gives the clearest index to biological conditions in water, it would be especially desirable to have that particular phase of biological study carried on. There is probably no other body of water in the world so favorably situated and conditioned for segregation and evaluation of major factors involved. It would be most fortunate for the progress of science in general if a biological station could be established in this region and its work assisted by that of a competent physiographer and hydrographer.

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CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have just received a letter from a professor in Hungary, which should, I think, be shared with the readers of SCIENCE. The writer is one of the leading scholars in that country in his department, and with him for many years prior to the war I have had a most pleasant acquaintance. I know that only real suffering