knowledge of living things as they are in nature.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

The British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research announces that the report of the National Physical Laboratory for the year 1919 has now been issued. It contains among other matter the report of the executive committee for the year 1919, the statement of work proposed for the year 1920–21, a list of papers published by the laboratory during the years 1917–18 and 1919 or communicated by members of the staff to scientific societies or to the technical journals, and the report of the director for the year 1919.

Some particulars of special work done during the war which it was previously necessary to treat as confidential are included, and the descriptions of such work now given will, it is hoped, be found of interest. This special work includes gauge testing carried out for the ministry of munitions, and a large number of special researches carried out by the electricity and metallurgy department and by the William Froude national tank.

The heads of the various departments give accounts of the recent work of the laboratory as follows:

Physics Department.
- I. Heat:
  - (*a*) High Temperature and General Work,
  - (*b*) Thermometer Testing,
  - (*c*) Oil Apparatus Testing.
- II. Optics.
- III. Radium and X Ray work.
- IV. Tide Prediction.
- V. Library.

Electricity Department.
Metrology Department.
Engineering Department.
Aerodynamics Department.
Metallurgy Department.
The William Froude National Tank.

THE FAIRPORT FISHERIES BIOLOGICAL STATION

The new building will be dedicated on October 7. The formal exercises will be divided into two parts—a forenoon session devoted to the immediate service of the station to industries and an afternoon session to consider the functions of the station in the advancement of science and the possibilities of further economic applications of its work. At each session there will be a principal address and three or four brief talks or messages. The speakers will be men of distinction in science and in public service. Opportunity will be afforded for inspection of the establishment, and, at suitable times to be appointed on October 7 and 8, scientists, state officers and other guests in attendance will be invited to confer regarding its purposes and work.

The reservation is on the Mississippi River, twenty miles below Davenport, and nine miles above Muscatine, Iowa. It comprises 60 acres of ground extending from the bank of the river to an elevation of about 200 feet above the river. Principal buildings are the biological laboratory, tank house, pumping station, hatchery (temporary laboratory), shell-testing plant and cottages. There are two water systems—unfiltered river water with storage reservoir of 2,000,000 gallons capacity and filtered water with gravity sand filter and low and high pressure cisterns. There are thirty-one ponds, of which nine are concrete-lined, while the remainder have walls and bottoms of natural earth.

The former laboratory building, opened in 1914, was of frame construction, about 100 by 50 feet, with two full stories, half basement and attic. It was destroyed by fire December 20, 1917, with the loss of a valuable library and many scientific records and specimens. The new building has the same location and approximately the same external dimensions as the old, but experience gained during occupancy of the first building and the resourcefulness and skill of the architect, have combined to make the new one superior in available space, convenience and serviceability.