

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

As has already been announced in *SCIENCE* and the newspaper press, the name of the Scripps Institution was changed on October 14, 1925, by the Regents of the University of California from Scripps Institution for Biological Research to Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California. In connection with the change in name it seems desirable to make entirely clear the relations the institution will bear to biological research. Marine biology is a necessary part of any comprehensive program for oceanographic research and in the future as in the past marine biological investigations will constitute an important part of the program of the work of the Scripps Institution. Since an institution with a limited staff can not hope to cover more than a small part of the field of marine biology the investigations of the staff of the institution will be circumscribed. They will be directed chiefly toward the study of marine plankton, the investigation of certain problems in ichthyology, and the study of organisms as geological agents and as a basis of interpreting the record contained in marine sedimentary deposits. It is hoped that the present program of the institution may be considerably expanded so as to gain a better understanding of some of the fundamental factors associated with the complex group of phenomena indicated in the preceding remarks.

Although the actual biological work of the members of the staff of the institution must be limited, such facilities as the institution possesses for research will be most cordially extended to visiting investigators in the future as in the past. During the two years since I have been director, the institution has been used as a base for studies by a number of botanists and zoologists, some of whom were working on marine organisms and others on terrestrial organisms. Among the distinguished zoologists who have worked at the institution since I came here are Professor C. M. Child, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. H. Boschma, of the University of Leiden. Among the botanists were Professor N. L. Gardner, of the University of California, and Miss Kathleen M. Drew, of Manchester, England. I wish not only biologists but other scientific investigators to understand that they will be welcome to utilize the facilities of the Scripps Institution to the limit of its capacity. No attempt has been or will be made to restrict the activities of visiting investigators. They may work on problems in marine biology and terrestrial biology; and I should be glad to have the institution used as a base for oceanographic investigations other

than those that are purely biological and for local geological work.

It seems pertinent to make a statement regarding the investigations of Dr. F. B. Sumner. As is well known, Dr. Sumner has for years been engaged on a study of the geographic races and genetics of *Peromyscus*, the deer mice, a genus of rodents. Dr. Sumner will continue his investigations on *Peromyscus* until they have been brought to a logical conclusion. It is obvious that this should be done in order to realize on the large investment of time on the part of Dr. Sumner and the investment of the funds of the institution. Before this investigation has been finished, Dr. Sumner will gradually shift the subject of his researches from *Peromyscus* to fishes. He will undertake genetic studies on aquarium fishes and he will revert to certain problems of the general ecological relations of fishes on which he was engaged before he undertook his researches on *Peromyscus*.

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ROGER WEBB GANNETT

WITH the passing on November 17, 1925, of Mr. Roger Webb Gannett there was lost to the teaching staff of the Michigan State College an outstanding geologist and instructor.

Mr. Gannett was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 18, 1896. He was graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota in 1918, receiving the degree of mining engineer. Immediately following his graduation he entered the employ of the Bureau of Mines in Washington, D. C., where he held the position of mineralogist until a few weeks before the signing of the Armistice, when he enlisted in the army. After several weeks spent in camp he was discharged and returned again to the Bureau of Mines, where he continued until May, 1919. At the termination of his services with the Bureau of Mines, Mr. Gannett, with a party of geologists and mining engineers in the employ of the Oriental Mines Company, left for exploration work in Siam. After eight months of mining exploration in Siam, Burma and the Malay Peninsula work was discontinued in this region by the Oriental Mines Company, and Mr. Gannett received orders to join a field party already engaged in geological work in Yunnan, China. In the fall of 1921 he returned from the Orient and spent the following winter in graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. The summer of 1922 as well as the following winter and summer were spent in Alleghany, California, in practical field work as geologist and mining engineer. In January, 1924, he came to the Michigan State College as instructor in geology.