DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ALBATROSS II

THE United States Bureau of Fisheries is directing its scientific investigations more and more to the life histories of the North Atlantic food fishes, and to the fundamental oceanographic factors which govern the abundance and migrations of cod, mackerel, haddock, herring and other species.

This is work which must be done on the high seas, far from land, regardless of stress of weather: often in winter, when the ship "logs up" with freezing spray, when icy instruments numb the hands, when storm, wet and cold severely tax the crews and the enthusiasm of the scientist on board. But it is work of fundamental importance in the biological field. Since the sale of the *Albatross* in 1924, this part of the program of the bureau has been seriously hampered by the lack of a sea-going ship, neither the veteran *Fish Hawk* nor the younger *Halcyon* being safe enough for work on the offshore fishing grounds, or even near shore except in good weather; much less in winter.

All friends of the bureau who were saddened to learn of the passing of the *Albatross,* after her nearly forty years of service, will therefore rejoice to hear that she is to have a worthy successor, in the naval tug *Patuxent,* recently transferred by the Navy Department to the Department of Commerce, for the service of the Bureau, with permission to rename her *Albatross II.*

Albatross II is a first-class iron, sea-going vessel, bringing an excellent war record from the North Sea: 148 feet long; twin screw; with a speed of about thirteen tons, with low coal consumption; a very wide steaming radius; ample deck room for handling winches, nets and trawls; economical in operation. Needing only a small personnel for her operation, she could hardly be bettered for the bureau's work at sea. And her comfortable cabins and roomy laboratory will lighten scientific work on board.

Through the friendly cooperation of the Navy Department, *Albatross II* is now being reconditioned at the Navy Yard at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the officers and men of the *Halcyon* busily cleaning and painting, while the naval machinists perform such structural repairs and alterations as are needful. At this writing (March 25) she is lurid with red lead, in anticipation of the coat of white, which all the ships of the bureau have worn for so many years.

As soon as practicable she will proceed to Woods Hole, where winches will be installed, and all the other varied fittings and apparatus needed to give her a thoroughly modern equipment, both for fishing experiments of all sorts and for oceanographic work precise enough to meet the most exacting standard.

It is hoped to commission *Albatross II* shortly after July 1, next, under the command of Captain G. W. Carlson, successively master of the fisheries schooner *Grampus* and of the *Halcyon.* For her first summer's work, the bureau plans to extend to Georges Bank and to other offshore grounds the cod-tagging campaign, which has yielded such fertile results in the coastwise waters of Nantucket Shoals and of the Gulf of Maine during the past three years; and to supplement the earlier surveys with a consistent series of oceanographic observations, much needed, for summer and autumn, in just those regions.

In anticipation of the commissioning of *Albatross II, Fish Hawk,* having outlived her usefulness, has been laid up at Woods Hole, and the same fate awaits the *Halcyon.*

Marine biologists, European and American, will join in congratulating the bureau on the acquisition of *Albatross II;* and in expecting from her scientific cruises a broadening of our knowledge of things marine which would not shame her famous namesake.

HENRY B. BIGELOW
MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SPERMATOGENESIS IN ICERYA PURCHASI—A CORRECTION

IN a recent study of the cytology of hermaphroditism in Icerya purchasi (S. Hughes-Schrader '25)[1] a short account of the spermatogenesis of the rare males of this species was included. The true males were described as diploid in chromosome constitution and as undergoing a perfectly normal spermatogenesis involving two maturation divisions with the reduction of the chromosomes to the haploid number. Breeding experiments under way at the time of publication have since yielded a line in which males preponderate heavily in numbers, and a cytological study of this and other new material with a restudy of the old has demonstrated clearly that I was in error in my first account. I can now state that the true males are in reality constantly haploid in constitution. A detailed investigation of the haploid spermatogenesis based on this material is now in process of publication. The diploid individuals on which my former study of spermatogenesis was based are in reality young hermaphrodites in an unusually male-like phase; a complete study has shown in each case the presence of some oogonial tissue in addition to the testes proper. The spermatogenesis in the testes of the hermaphrodite is only rarely of the type described in my 1925 paper. Normally there seems to be a transformation of a part of the germ cells of the hermaphroditic

[1] Hughes-Schrader, Sally, 1925, "Cytology of Hermaphroditism in Icerya purchasi (Coccidae)," *Zeitschf. f. Zellf. u. mik. Anat.,* B. 2.