THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF DUKE UNIVERSITY

DURING the summer of 1938 Duke University plans to offer courses in biology and opportunity for research at Piver's Island, Beaufort, N. C. Construction has begun on a laboratory, lecture and recreation hall, dormitories, dining-hall, pier, boat house, pump house and other structures. In 1902 the United States Bureau of Fisheries established a biological station on Piver's Island because "Beaufort, N. C., was found to be a place especially well suited for the study of marine fauna and flora." Since then the biota has become well known through work to which many famous biologists have contributed (Gill, Stimpson, Coues, Yarrow, Brooks, Wilson, Mast, Hoyt, Lewis, Hay, etc.). Piver's Island is only 150 yards from the mainland and the historic town of Beaufort. In 1936 a bridge was built across to U. S. Highway 70, so the island is readily accessible by automobile. The Fisheries Station is situated on the north end of the island; the Duke University Marine Laboratory is being built on 11.5 acres south of that. There is easy access by boat or automobile to Bogue and Pamlico sounds, neighboring rivers and creeks, canals, mud flats, sandy shores, banks, dunes, marshes, peat bogs, cypress swamps, bird islands and other habitats of great biological interest. Among typical southern plants which occur long leaf pine, yopon, several insectivorous plants and palmetto may be mentioned. A great variety of algae, both fresh-water and marine, are available. Among animals there are king crabs, crabs, ctenophores, sponges, snails, clams, squids, hydroids, many fishes, gannets, cormorants, herons, sea turtles, porpoises, etc. A daily train from Goldsboro and busses furnish transportation to Beaufort.

The station is to be equipped with runing salt- and fresh-water and electricity. There are to be tanks and aquaria for keeping plants and animals under observation. Books and other literature will be brought from the Duke University Library. Double rooms will be available in the dormitories. Microscopes and equipment and ordinary reagents will be furnished, but students are expected to have dissecting instruments.

Registration should be arranged through the Summer School Office, Duke University, Durham, N. C. Courses are intended for students who have had at least two years of work and may be counted toward work for A.M. or Ph.D. degrees. A student may obtain a maximum of twelve-semester hours credit during the entire summer, or six-semester hours for six weeks.

Dr. A. S. Pearse has been appointed director. Dr. H. L. Blomquist will be in charge of botany and Drs. I. E. Gray and A. S. Pearse will be in charge of zoology.

There are ample opportunities for recreation—swimming, fishing, boating, etc. One or two illustrated lectures on general biological subjects or travel will be given at the station each week. There are theaters in Beaufort and Morehead City.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL EDUCATION

ON December 30, 1937, the Executive Committee and Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science passed the following resolution: "The council voted to direct its standing Committee on the Place of Science in Education to represent the association in the organization of plans for the evaluation and improvement of the teaching of science in colleges." Tentatively, the new group is designated as the Committee on Improvement of Science in General Education.

The proposed functions of the committee are:

General: To initiate, encourage, guide and support studies designed to explore, evaluate and improve the teaching of the sciences as a part of general education.

Specific: 1. To clarify and define the problems involved in teaching the sciences as a part of the program of general education.

2. To develop a more scientific attack upon problems of science teaching; that is, to promote experimentation; to collect evidence, to encourage the use of procedures justified on the basis of organized and evaluated evidence in contrast to opinions, untested assumptions and uncritical acceptance of traditional practices.

3. To disseminate information about the committee's work, and to secure constructive criticism by means of discussion groups in college and university centers, by participation in programs and by such other means as may be found effective.

4. To obtain and to use financial support for such work in the sciences as gives promise of being effective in improving the teaching of science in general education.

5. To serve as a clearing house for coordinating the activities of the several agencies now working on parts of the whole problem and new agencies which may be initiated for the improvement of science teaching.

6. To act in an advisory capacity on any studies approved by it and supported through it; to require and coordinate reports of such studies, and to provide for publication of the findings.

The Committee on the Place of Science in Education met with the initial members of the new committee in Columbus, Ohio, on April 30 and May 1. Discussions were held regarding the nature and purposes of the proposed work, and about possible and desirable procedures. The initial plans will soon be presented in a separate statement by the chairman of the new committee. Response has not yet been received from all who were invited to become members of the committee. The following is the list of those who have accepted, and the officers elected by them:

Lloyd W. Taylor, *chairman*, Oberlin College.
Ralph W. Tyler, *vice-chairman*, the Ohio State University.
A. C. Kinsey, *secretary*, Indiana University.
H. J. Arnold, Columbia University.
Carey Croneis, University of Chicago.
Bert Cunningham, Duke University.
C. C. Furnas, Yale University.
Dr. Neil E. Gordon, Central College, Fayette, Mo.
Joel S. Georges, Wright Jr. College, Chicago.
M. F. Guyer, University of Wisconsin.
E. R. Hedrick, University of California.
C. J. Lapp, University of Iowa.
Kirtley Mather, Harvard University.
Homer C. Sampson, the Ohio State University.
Paul B. Sears, the University of Oklahoma.

Report submitted by the Committee on Place of Science in Education.

OTIS W. CALDWELL, *Chairman*

AWARDS OF THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

AT a meeting of the trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund held on April 20, the following grants were awarded:

$200 to Dr. Kurt G. Stern, Yale University, for the continuation of his work on the constitution of catalase and the mechanism of enzyme action; $257 to Dr. Ludvig G. Browman, the Montana State University, for studies of oestrous and activity rhythms of rats under various light conditions; $59.41 to Dr. C. R. Johnson, the University of Texas, for research on atomic weights of various elements, particularly cadmium; $200 to Dr. J. O. Pinkston, the American University of Beirut, for a study of the pharmacological relationship between certain sympathomimetic drugs and chemical mediators of the sympathetic nervous system; $325 to Leigh Chadwick and Dr. H. E. Edgerton, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to obtain high-speed motion pictures of insects in flight; $150 to Dr. L. T. Evans, the Montana State University, for work on the relation of the male sex hormone in mating and territory behavior and of anti-hormones in turtles and lizards; $250 to Dr. Edward Girden, for a continuation of his study of auditory phenomena.

The trustees of the fund are as follows: G. P. Baxter, president; Jeffries Wyman, Jr., secretary; Charles P. Curtis, treasurer; G. B. Wislocki, J. C. Slater, A. C. Redfield, trustees. The next meeting will be held in April, 1939, and applications for grants should be made to the Secretary, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

CONFERENCE ON SPECTROSCOPY AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A SIXTH spectroscopy conference will be held at the George Eastman Research Laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on July 18, 19 and 20, repeating the type of program presented at the conferences held during the past five summers. Reports will be given by spectroscopists from university and industrial research and analytical laboratories, and by biologists, geologists, metallurgists, chemists and physicists who have found spectroscopic equipment useful in their investigations.

Morning and afternoon meetings will be held on three days. Papers and discussions on analysis of materials by the emission spectrum, absorption spectrophotometry, photographic photometry, biological and chemical effects of spectral radiation, and industrial applications of spectroscopy, are being prepared. Copies of the detailed program of the conference will be sent on request to anyone interested, but as the attendance at the conference is limited to two hundred, those expecting to attend from a distance are urged to signify in advance their intention of being present. No fee is charged in connection with the conference.

The usual summer courses on practical and applied spectroscopy will be offered at the institute between June 13 and July 23. Requests for fuller information regarding the conference, including titles of the papers to be presented, and for data regarding the summer courses, should be addressed to Professor George R. Harrison, Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

AT the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held on May 11 at its house, 28 Newbury Street, Boston, 37 new fellows and 16 foreign honorary members were elected. Following are those elected to the scientific sections:

FELLOWS

Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Emile Monnin Chamot, Cornell University.
Alfred Victor de Forest, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
John Charles Duncan, Wellesley College.
Robert Casad Hockett, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
E. Morton Jellinek, Worcester.
John Moyes Lessells, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Harold Clayton Urey, Columbia University.

Natural and Physiological Sciences

Marland Pratt Billings, Harvard University.
Kenneth Vivian Thimann, Harvard University.
George Bernays Wislocki, Harvard University.

FOREIGN HONORARY MEMBERS

Edgar Douglas Adrian, Cambridge, England.