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All Correspondence should be addressed to—

The DIRECTOR,
Marine Biological Laboratory,
Plymouth.

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Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

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OBJECTS
OF THE
Marine Biological Association
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE ASSOCIATION was founded at a Meeting called for the purpose in March, 1884, and held in the Rooms of the Royal Society of London.

The late Professor HUXLEY, at that time President of the Royal Society, took the chair, and amongst the speakers in support of the project were the late Duke of ARGYLL, the late Sir LYON PLAYFAIR, the late Lord AVEBURY, the late Sir JOSEPH HOOKER, the late Dr. CARPENTER, the late Dr. GÜNTHER, the late Lord DALHOUSIE, the late Professor MOSELKY, the late Mr. ROMANES, and Sir E. RAY LANKESTER.

The Association owes its existence and its present satisfactory condition to a combination of scientific naturalists, and of gentlemen who, from philanthropic or practical reasons, are specially interested in the great sea fisheries of the United Kingdom. It is universally admitted that our knowledge of the habits and conditions of life of sea fishes is very small, and insufficient to enable either the practical fisherman or the Legislature to take measures calculated to ensure to the country the greatest return from the "harvest of the sea." Naturalists are, on the other hand, anxious to push further our knowledge of marine life and its conditions. Hence the Association has erected at Plymouth a thoroughly efficient Laboratory, where naturalists may study the history of marine animals and plants in general, and where researches on food-fishes and molluses may be carried out with the best appliances.

The Laboratory and its fittings were completed in June, 1888, at a cost of some £12,000. Since that time investigations, practical and scientific, have been constantly pursued at Plymouth. Practical investigations upon matters connected with sea-fishing are carried on under the direction of the Council; in addition, naturalists from England and from abroad have come to the Laboratory, to carry on their own independent researches, and have made valuable additions to zoological and botanical science, at the expense of a small rent for the use of a working table in the Laboratory and other appliances. The number of naturalists who can be employed by the Association in special investigations on fishery questions, and definitely retained for the purpose of carrying on those researches throughout the year, must depend on the funds subscribed by private individuals and public bodies for the purpose. The first charges on the revenue of the Association are the working of the sea-water circulation in the tanks, stocking the tanks with fish and feeding the latter, the payment of servants and fishermen, the hire and maintenance of fishing-boats, and the salary of the Resident Director and Staff. At the commencement of this number will be found the names of the gentlemen on the Staff.

The purpose of the Association is to aid at the same time both science and industry. It is national in character and constitution, and its affairs are conducted by a representative Council, by an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, without any charge upon its funds, so that the whole of the subscriptions and donations received are devoted absolutely to the support of the Laboratory and the prosecution of researches by aid of its appliances. The reader is referred to page 4 of the Cover for information as to membership of the Association.

CONTENTS OF NEW SERIES, Vol. XIII., No. 1.

	PAGE
1. SUMMARY OF AN ACCOUNT OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CAUSE OR CAUSES OF THE UNUSUAL MORTALITY AMONG OYSTERS IN ENGLISH OYSTER BEDS DURING 1920 AND 1921. BY J. H. ORTON	1
2. ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF AMOEBOID MOVEMENT. I. BY C. F. A. PANTIN. <i>With Figures 1-10</i>	24
3. THE FOOD OF PLANKTON ORGANISMS. II. BY MARIE V. LEBOUR. <i>With Figures 1-12 in the Text</i>	70
4. THE HYDROGEN ION CONCENTRATION OF SEA WATER IN ITS RELATION TO PHOTOSYNTHETIC CHANGES. PART II. BY W. R. G. ATKINS. <i>With Figures 1-12 in the Text</i>	93
5. THE PHOSPHATE CONTENT OF FRESH AND SALT WATERS IN ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE GROWTH OF THE ALGAL PLANKTON. BY W. R. G. ATKINS. <i>With Figures 1-8 in the Text</i>	119
6. THE SILICA CONTENT OF SOME NATURAL WATERS AND OF CULTURE MEDIA. BY W. R. G. ATKINS	151
7. NOTE ON THE OXIDISABLE ORGANIC MATTER OF SEA WATER. BY W. R. G. ATKINS	160
8. ANIMAL COMMUNITIES OF THE LEVEL SEA-BOTTOM IN THE WATERS ADJACENT TO PLYMOUTH. BY E. FORD. <i>With 1 Chart and 6 Figures in the Text</i>	164
9. HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES OF THE WATER IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PLYMOUTH DURING THE YEARS 1921 AND 1922. BY H. W. HARVEY	225
10. THE RELATION BETWEEN CATCHES OF MACKEREL AND THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE <i>in situ</i> . BY J. R. LUMBY: <i>With 3 Charts in the Text</i>	236
11. NOTE UPON AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SPIDER-CRAB AND SEA-ANEMONE. BY DAVID LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON	243
12. THE LARVAL STAGES OF <i>Processa canaliculata</i> LEACH. BY ROBERT GURNEY	245
13. PLYMOUTH PERIDINIANS. IV. THE PLATE ARRANGEMENT OF SOME PERIDINIUM SPECIES. BY MARIE V. LEBOUR. <i>With Figures 1-5 in the Text</i>	266
14. COCCOLITHOPHORA PELAGICA (WALLICH) FROM THE CHANNEL. BY MARIE V. LEBOUR. <i>With a Figure in the Text and 1 Table</i>	271
15. FACTORS AFFECTING THE DURABILITY OF SILK PLANKTON TOW-NETS AND YOUNG FISH TRAWL-NETS. BY W. R. G. ATKINS	276
16. NOTE ON AN APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE QUANTITY OF DISSOLVED GASES IN SEA WATER, AND IN FLUIDS CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER. BY H. W. HARVEY. <i>With Figures 1-4 in the Text</i>	282
17. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1922	286
18. BALANCE SHEET, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH, 1922	296
" 1ST APRIL, 1922, TO 31ST MARCH, 1923	298
19. LIST OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID DURING THE THREE MONTHS, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH, 1922	300
LIST OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID DURING THE YEAR, 1ST APRIL, 1922, TO 31ST MARCH, 1923	301
SPECIAL FUND	304
SPECIAL DONATIONS FOR EASTER CLASS BUILDING FUND	305
20. LIST OF GOVERNORS, FOUNDERS, AND MEMBERS, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1923	309

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