

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.

Professor HUXLEY, the President of the Royal Society, took the chair, and amongst the speakers in support of the project were the Duke of ARGYLL, Sir LYON PLAYFAIR, Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, Sir JOSEPH HOOKER, the late Dr. CARPENTER, Dr. GÜNTHER, the late Lord DALHOUSIE, Professor MOSELEY, Dr. ROMANES, and Professor 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, in particular, researches on food fishes and molluscs may be carried out with the best appliances.

The Laboratory and its fittings have cost some £12,000, and are now complete. The number of naturalists who can be employed by the Association on special investigations, and definitely retained for the purpose of carrying on researches throughout the year, must depend on the funds subscribed by private individuals and public bodies for this purpose. The first charges on the revenue of the Association are those for the working of the seawater circulation in the tanks, the payment of servants and fishermen, and the salary of the Resident Director. The gentleman holding this post receives £200 a year and a residence. A naturalist has also been appointed at a salary of £250 a year, whose duties are almost entirely confined to the study of food fishes. THESE ARE THE ONLY SALARIED OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: the entire work of conducting its affairs has been done hitherto by voluntary service. It is confidently expected that valuable researches will be carried on at the Plymouth Laboratory by naturalists who will come there as volunteers, and will pay a small rent for the use of a working-table in the Laboratory and other appliances. It will be part of the business of the Superintendent and Naturalist to organise and direct these voluntary researches as far as possible, so as to obtain definite and practical results.

The Association has actually received, or has in promise, altogether about £15,000, of which £5000 has been granted by the Treasury. The annual revenue which can be at present counted on is about £950, of which £500 a year for five years is granted by the Treasury, whilst £180 is in the uncertain form of Annual Subscriptions.

The admirable Marine Biological Laboratory at Naples, founded and directed by Dr. Dohrn, has cost about £20,000, including steam launches, &c., whilst it has an annual budget of £4000.

It is obvious that the MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION urgently needs additional funds in order to purchase such accessories as a steam launch and boats, and in order to increase the permanent staff engaged at Plymouth. 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.

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NOTICE.

The Council of the Marine Biological Association wish it to be understood that they do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of statements published in this Journal, excepting when those statements are contained in an official report of the Council.

Persons desirous of joining the M. B. A. can do so on application to the Director, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth. Members pay One Guinea annually, or a Composition Fee of Fifteen Guineas for Life Membership. Founders pay £100. Governors (Life-Members of Council) £500. Members of the Association have the following rights and privileges: they elect annually the Officers and Council; they receive the Journal of the Association free by post; they are admitted to view the Laboratory at Plymouth, and may introduce friends with them; they have the first claim to rent a place in the Laboratory for research, with use of tanks, boats, &c., and have access to the books in the Library at Plymouth.

For a statement of the objects and organization of the Association, see page 3 of the wrapper.