

WOODS HOLE, MASS. Aug. 8, 1911

The Corporation and Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory record their great sorrow and loss in the death, on December 8th last, of Professor Charles Otis Whitman, for twenty-one years Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory and virtually its creator. His connection with the Laboratory began at the time when it was first located at Woods Hole and before it had achieved recognized standing; with untiring energy and enthusiasm he strove to make it a national center for research in every department of biology.

X "The great charm of a biological station", he wrote, "must be the fullness with which it represents the biological system. Its power and efficiency diminish with every source of light excluded". To zoology, which was the only subject represented at first, he added botany and physiology, and, so far as he was able, made provision for all the newer fields and methods of biological investigation. But his breadth of sympathy was associated with exacting thoroughness. By his own careful and critical work, as well as by his appreciation of the fundamental problems of biology, he set a high standard for the scientific work of the Laboratory.

X If the Laboratory was to be truly national, Professor Whitman believed that it must be founded upon the cooperation of individuals and institutions. He recognized the fact that common ideals must form the basis of such cooperation, and he sought to bring into close connection with the Laboratory every person and institution that shared these ideals with himself. By his kindness, sincerity,

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY,

WOODS HOLE, MASS.

generosity, and devotion to the Laboratory he called forth similar qualities in others, so that it has been peculiarly characteristic of Woods Hole that a spirit of mutual cooperation and service prevails.

X Finally, Professor Whitman stood for the complete autonomy of the Laboratory. Although much needed aid might have been had more than once from universities and institutions by surrendering the independence of the Laboratory, he steadfastly and consistently refused to do this, maintaining that the Laboratory must be left free to grow and develop as its own needs and the interests of science demand, and that its government must remain in the hands of those most interested in it. Though there was formerly much difference of opinion as to the expediency of this stand, we are now all agreed as to Professor Whitman's foresight and wisdom in this matter.

Catholicity, cooperation, independence -- these are the ideals which Professor Whitman succeeded in making part and parcel of the Marine Biological Laboratory and which we count among our most cherished possessions.

Professor Whitman was the founder and for many years the editor of the Journal of Morphology; he founded the Biological Bulletin and the annual volume of Lectures from the Marine Biological Laboratory. He was at one time Director of the Lake Laboratory, one of the first research institutions in this country. He rendered eminent service in universities of this and other lands. He contributed to the advance of science by research work of fundamental importance. Biology owes much to his high ideals, his generous

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY,

WOODS HOLE, MASS.

enthusiasm, his rigorous criticism, but most of all to the enterprise which always lay nearest his heart -- the Marine Biological Laboratory Here, if it had been possible, he would gladly have spent his life; to this place his thoughts returned with longing after every absence; to this place friends bore his body and laid it to rest almost within sight of the Laboratory which he greatly loved, and which is his enduring monument.

*E. S. Outley*