

Contributions.

WOOD'S HALL.

On the southern side of Cape Cod, bounded on the one hand by Buzzard's Bay, on the other by Vineyard Sound, lies the little village of Wood's Hall. Nestling at the foot of a wooded hill, the grey, weather-beaten houses of the fisher-folk suggest simplicity of life and quaintness of custom. Notwithstanding the influx of modern ideas and insidious advance of the fashionable world, the village is still a delightful summer resort, where the chief occupation is work, and amusement is incidental.

No better place for a biological station could have been chosen. Cape Cod forms the boundary line between northern and southern farms. Sheltered nooks with a northerly aspect are the homes of the coarser, hardier plants and animals of the New England coast, while the more brilliant and delicate southern forms are almost every where abundant. Fresh water ponds, salt water inlets, stretches of sandy beach, piles of threatening rocks, quiet bays and stormy islands afford congenial homes for an endless variety of beautiful farms. The woods and fields are gay with a succession of wild roses, pink azaleas, graceful honeysuckle, scarlet lilies and spicy *Clectrsa*. Swamps are resplendent with rose mallows and orchids. The ponds are covered with fragrant water lilies. Mushrooms of curious hue spring up on every side. Two hundred and fifty species of *algae* have been found in this locality and the *fauna* is equally rich. Many interesting and beautiful places within easy reach furnish pretexts for non-scientific pilgrimages. Stretching towards the south-west are the Elizabeth Islands, which still retain their melodious Indian names, "Uncatena, Nonamesset, Great Naushon, Weepecker, Nashuwena, Pasque-nese, Cuttynunk and Penikese." The last is much the most interesting of the group on account of its association with Agassiz.

The island is now the desolate home of screaming terns, and the laboratory in which Agassiz held his famous summer school is in ruins. Nevertheless, it is easy to picture the master welcoming that earnest band of students who had "come in search of truth." School and master are gone, but the spirit which animated them lives, and is an inspiration to all, who are

" . . . groping here to find
What the hieroglyphics mean
Of the unseen in the seen."

Across the sound from Wood's Hall is Martha's Vineyard, and a little further east is Nantucket. The local etymology of the name is characteristic. An old sea captain, so the story goes, had three daughters. To Martha, he gave his beautiful vineyard; and to Elizabeth the group of islands which bears her name; only one island remained, so "Nan tuck it."

Charming drives and walks, good boating, excellent bathing, fine roads for bicycling combine to make Wood's Hall a most attractive place. For many years the village was the quiet home of fishermen, who lived apart from the world. One of the first intrusions upon their peace was the establishment of guano works, of which traces still remain in dilapidated warehouses, and a picturesque stone tower which, to the romantic stranger, suggests Norse adventurers. Another relic, more interesting to the scientist, is a curious alga, *Baccharichia Quoyi*, found only at Wood Hall and in the Ladrões.

The United States Fish Commission established a station at Wood's Hall several years ago, and the commission buildings, with their beautiful aquaria and interesting hatchery, are most attractive.

The point, however, around which life and interest centres, is the Marine Biological Laboratory. The laboratory was opened in 1888, with scanty outfit and few resources, and in the