

BIOLOGICAL STATION OF CANADA.*

A REVIEW OF ITS THREE YEARS' WORK.

The issue of the first fasciculus of scientific papers from the Marine Biological Station of Canada gives occasion for some account of that important institution and its work. The papers, which contain the results of the biological researches carried on by Canadian specialists at the Station, form the Supplement to the 33rd Annual Report of the Fisheries Department, Ottawa. The Supplement is not only of unique scientific interest, but a glance at the nature of the subjects treated of demonstrates its immense practical value to the Government and to the public. It is stated that the French, German and other foreign Governments have specially applied for copies of this publication, and the fact is not surprising in view of the technical value and practical bearing of the six or seven reports included in this Blue Book.

The Station was founded by the Dominion Government in 1898, the Order in Council authorising its erection being dated May 9th of that year. The steps which led to its foundation may be briefly told, and, for the details, reliance has been placed upon Professor Prince's article on the origin, equipment, and work of the Station, which forms the first of the seven scientific papers now presented to the public.

Professor Prince, as Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, was rightly selected as head and director of the Station by the Canadian Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and he gives in a concise report, a rapid outline of the progress of Marine Biology in Canada onward from 1835, when Sir William Dawson began, as a youth of 15, to collect marine specimens in the vicinity of Pictou, Nova Scotia. It is an interesting story, and should be told in full detail some day, for Professor Prince's sketch was evidently written *currente calamo*, and there are many omissions of important zoological work done, which should find a place in a complete sketch of Canadian marine biology. The Station resulted, as Professor Prince tells us, from

* Contributions to Canadian Biology, being studies from the Biological Station of Canada, 1901. Supplement to the Ann. Report Mar. and Fish. Dept., Ottawa, 1900.