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The Swarming of Odontosyllis.

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On Feb. 10, 1913, Mr. F. A. Potts of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, read a paper on "The Swarming of *Odontosyllis*," at a meeting of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, which paper appeared in the Proceedings on April 23, following. Observations made on *Odontosyllis phosphorea* Moore, a species of Annelid found in the vicinity of the Biological Station, Departure Bay, B.C., provided material for the body of the paper, to which is added a comparison of the habits of this species with that of other Syllids and Nereids.

The observations made and recorded were of much interest and the conclusions appeared to be so but as is often the case when conclusions are based on very limited observations, further examination shows the necessity of considerable revision.

As far as the phenomenon of swarming is concerned, repeated observations confirm all of Mr. Potts' statements without producing any of value in addition. The time of day at which spawning takes place seems definite without doubt, but definite as regards the position of the sun, not definite as to the time on the clock. Very few swarms have been seen very much before sunset, but from sunset or possibly a little before it until almost dusk, that is for a period lasting from half an hour to an hour, they appear at the surface whether the sun sets early or late.

There is nothing further to indicate that the males are attracted to the females as they are in *O. enopla*. In every instance each individual whether male or female comes to the surface without any apparent regard to the position of any other individual. The movement at the surface seems just as liable to be away from as towards the nearest individual of the other sex. It would therefore seem that although the number of individuals is great, the chance for fertilizing all of the ova, or even a large portion of them, is very slight. The chances might be increased if the eggs were pelagic at or near the surface but they are not so. They may remain suspended for some time in water that is