

midst of the greatest uncertainty. At present, the M. B. L. owns three laboratories, supplied with the apparatus necessary for advanced biological work, a lecture hall and a dining hall. The buildings are of the simplest character, with unpainted, shingled exteriors, and rough, unfinished interiors. A steam launch and several boats and dredges enable the collector to secure an abundant supply of fresh material for work, and species new to the locality are so often brought in that the resources of the place seem inexhaustible.

Last summer two preparatory courses in zoology and two in botany were given. In the department of investigation great advantages were offered to advanced workers who, though carrying on research work, wished a certain amount of advice and supervision. In addition to the provision made for beginners in investigation, forty private laboratories were supplied for those engaged in independent research.

The laboratory is managed by trustees, and its expenses are met partly by the fees of students, and partly by subscriptions and the sale of biological supplies.

Dr. Whitman, of the University of Chicago, is the director, and to his devotion and self-sacrifice the success of the institution is largely due. The advantages offered in the department of instruction are unusually good. One man is not burdened with the whole field of nature. Last year, the staff included twenty instructors, a collector, an artist, and a laboratory assistant. Many of the investigators give a part of their time to regular instruction, and others deliver occasional lectures upon their specialties. Students have thus the opportunity of receiving the latest ideas from the greatest enthusiasts and best of teachers. All the instruction looks towards original work, and much of it is adapted to specialists, who are often heads of departments in colleges and universities.

In addition to the regular class work, a biological seminar meets every morning for discus-

sion. A course of lectures on the subjects of general biological interest is always given, chiefly by men not connected with the laboratory. Last season, such subjects as psycho-physiology and the properties of matter, were presented. One of the most highly appreciated lectures of the course was given by Prof. Penhallow upon the "Classification of Woods, according to their Histological Character."

The preparatory courses begin the first of July and end the middle of August, but the laboratory is open to investigators from the first of June until the first of October. In 1895, one hundred and ninety-nine persons, representing eighty-five institutions, were in attendance at the laboratory. Of these, forty-two were independent investigators, and twenty-one investigators receiving instruction. In 1896, of the one hundred and seventy-seven people at work, seventy-five were investigators.

The productivity of the department of investigation is second only to that of the famous Naples Biological Station. More than one hundred and fifty papers, worked out in whole or in part at the Laboratory, have been published since 1890.

Life at Wood's Hall may seem a round of work too exhausting for a summer holiday, but it is not so in reality. It is true that the greater part of the day is spent in the Laboratory but the latter part of the afternoon and the evening are devoted to recreation, differing somewhat from that of an ordinary summer resort, but refreshing to mind and body. Moonlight sails, delightful walks, impromptu concerts, clam bakes, etc., prevent monotony. The life is delightfully free, even bohemian. All dress as they please, but simplicity prevails.

The variety of type exhibited by the members of the Laboratory is very amusing. The attractive young woman in reform dress, the conservative girl who prides herself upon her femininity, the narrowest of specialists who regards his favourite worm as the centre of the universe, the