Director's Report.

The Report of the Council, which has already been in the hands of the members of the Association for some months, and is reprinted in the present number of the Journal, gives a summary of the history of the Association and of the work which has been in progress since the issue of the last Journal.

It will be readily understood that the work of organising and commencing to carry out a programme of investigations of the size of the International scheme has placed a serious strain upon the members of the old staff of the Association, and whilst expressing the regret of myself and my colleagues at our apparent neglect in not having for some time provided the Council with the material necessary for the issue of a number of the Journal, I hope that during the next few months we shall demonstrate, by the publication of work which is on the verge of completion, that although silent we have not been idle, and that steady and substantial progress has been made with the various researches which we have in hand.

The ordinary work of the Plymouth Laboratory has continued with little if any interruption. The following naturalists have occupied tables during the summer, that is to say, since the publication of the list given in the Report of the Council on p. 640:—

The Rev. Canon Norman, F.R.S. (Crustacea).
Prof. W. F. R. Weldon, F.R.S., Oxford (Variation of Mollusca).
Dr. E. G. Gardiner, Wood's Hole (Turbellaria).
Dr. C. Shearer, Cambridge (Development of Polychaeta).
G. F. Farran, B.A., Dublin (Nudibranchiata).
G. P. Bidder, M.A., Cambridge (Method of measuring bottom currents in the sea).
J. S. Thomson, Plymouth (Fishes).
W. R. G. Bond, B.A., Oxford (General Zoology).
F. W. W. Griffin, B.A., Cambridge (Fishes).
F. Cavers, B.sc., Plymouth.
Rev. A. Cole, Berkhamstead (General Zoology).
Miss J. Sollas, Cambridge (Echinodermata).
Miss A. Kelly, Ph.D., Strassburg (Chemical Physiology).
Miss R. M. Clark, Cambridge (Polyzoa).
Miss E. Peacey, Oxford (General Zoology).
Prof. Otto Pettersson of Stockholm, Vice-President of the Central Bureau of the International Investigations, and Dr. P. P. C. Hoek of Copenhagen, General Secretary of the Central Bureau, have visited the Laboratories at Plymouth and Lowestoft in order to make themselves acquainted with the details of the work being carried on in connection with the investigations. They expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements that had been made at both stations, and with the progress of the researches.

The business of supplying specimens for scientific research, for teaching purposes, and for museums continues to grow. Unfortunately the expense involved in procuring constant supplies of fresh material will in all probability never allow of this branch of our work becoming entirely self-supporting, but the service rendered would seem to be of such value that it would be a distinct misfortune if it were allowed to cease.

As regards the fishery work of the Association, the policy adopted by the Council has been to throw all its energies, for the time being, into the prosecution of the International investigations, so that as far as the responsibility rests with them they may ensure the success of that important undertaking, and English fishery science may take its proper place as compared with that of the other countries of Europe.

The new members of the staff now employed by the Council in connection with these investigations have entered upon their duties with energy and enthusiasm, and share with the old a determination that the work produced shall be of such a character that even those who in the past have felt it their duty to offer criticism of the scheme shall be compelled to recognise its value and the possibilities it offers of producing results which will be both scientific and practical.

The reports on these International investigations will appear partly in the Bulletin of the Central Bureau, and partly in a separate publication.

E. J. ALLEN,
Director.

PLYMOUTH,
December 1st, 1903.