

Biology

Department of Biology
Indiana University

Bloomington Oct 29/87

To the honorable the board of trustees of
Indiana University,

Gentlemen: —

The report of the Department of Biology covers but a short period. During the summer of the present year I collected on the sea-shore material for the use of the students in the laboratory of this Department. I arrived in Bloomington Sept. 2, 1887 and at once began to get things in order for the opening of the new year. My work since I arrived here and the condition and needs of the Department under my charge may be considered under separate heads: —

Instruction: — The instruction in biology is given by both lectures and laboratory work. The separate courses are

1. Elementary Biology; two lectures and three laboratory exercises weekly. This course is introductory; the lectures give an outline of the animal kingdom while the laboratory ^{work} gives the student not only an autoptic knowledge of the forms studied but a knowledge of scientific methods as well. Nineteen students attend this course.

2. Advanced Morphology: — two lectures weekly

upon the fundamental principles of animal anatomy and embryology. Attended by seven students.

3 Comparative Anatomy; - These laboratory exercises weekly by students who have done work equivalent to that given in course One. Attended by four students.

4 Histology; - These laboratory exercises weekly in human and comparative histology. This course, which will continue through the year is especially intended for prospective medical students and gives them not only a practical knowledge of tissues but of modern microscopical methods as well. It is taken by four students with prospects of a larger number next term.

5. Evolution; the class in Evolution is retained by Dr Jordan, but during his absences I have given several lectures upon the principles of heredity and the lines of descent of the various groups of animals. Sixteen students attend this course.

The whole of the work in Botany has been transferred to Mr. James E. Humphrey who resigned the position of assistant in Botany in Harvard University to accept an instructorship here. His report accompanies this. In this connection I would say that the relations which exist between us are of the pleasantest nature.

possible, but that I would recommend a division of the Department of biology into botany and ~~zoology~~ zoology and the establishment of a four years course in each, as was promised in the catalogue of last year. The efficiency of both Departments would thus be greatly increased.

My relations with the students have been very satisfactory. With one or two exceptions all have done well and no one has done so poorly as to warrant dropping him from the Department.

Museum. When I assumed charge of the collections in Owen Hall the specimens were in perfect disorder, a fact partly attributable to the lack of suitable exhibition cases. My duties as instructor have demanded so much of my time that I have had no opportunity to begin an arrangement. During the winter term however I hope to arrange the specimens, so far as case room will allow, so that they will be instructive. New cases for exhibition and for storage are ~~greatly~~ very desirable but there are other and more imperative demands upon the limited funds at your disposal.

Needs of the Department. Since the first almost nothing has been expended for the equipment of the biological Department and when I arrived at Bloomington the facilities for instruction were of the most primitive character. Every other Department

in the University was far better equipped. Except for decidedly inferior microscopes there was no apparatus. On this account I have had to change my courses of instruction in many ways but now both Mr. Humphrey and myself have arrived at a point where we must have at least ten good microscopes or else be compelled to give decidedly inferior instruction. I shall also be compelled to refuse several students who wish to enter my Department next term. Besides these microscopes which will cost about \$35.00 each, ordered in Bloomington, the Department must have about \$200.00 for smaller items for the coming fiscal year or a total of \$550.—

Lib. Com. I would urgently recommend that the amount for the purchase of biological books for the library be increased, and that the money be devoted to scientific journals rather than to regular books. In science, contrary to what obtains in other Departments of knowledge, journals have a permanent, other works an ephemeral value. I may say, incidentally, that the ^{scientific} journals now taken — Science, Nature, American Journal of Science and Popular Science Monthly — are of no value to the biological Department.

I am Yours truly
J. S. Kingsley