

**L.M.B.C. MEMOIRS ON
TYPICAL BRITISH MARINE
PLANTS AND ANIMALS:
XIX; POLYCHAET LARVAE**

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L.M.B.C. Memoirs on Typical British Marine Plants and Animals: XIX; Polychaet Larvae by F. H. Gravely

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F. H. GRAVELY

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Liverpool Marine Biology Committee.

L.M.B.C. MEMOIRS

ON TYPICAL BRITISH MARINE PLANTS & ANIMALS

EDITED BY W. A. HERDMAN, D.Sc., F.R.S.

XIX.

POLYCHÆT LARVÆ

BY

F. H. GRAVELY, M.Sc.

DEMONSTRATOR OF ZOOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

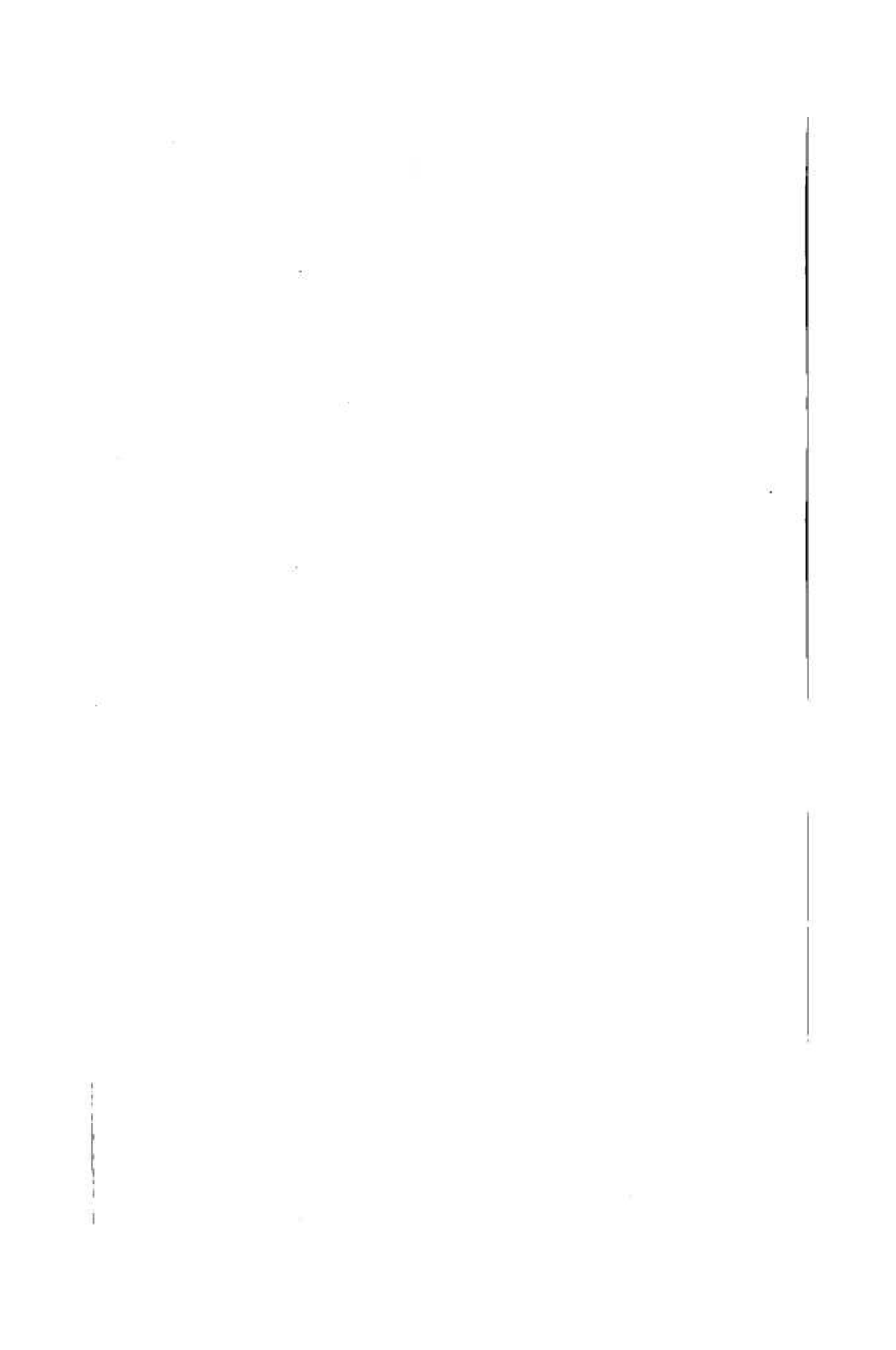
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AUGUST, 1909



EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE Liverpool Marine Biology Committee was constituted in 1885, with the object of investigating the Fauna and Flora of the Irish Sea.

The dredging, trawling, and other collecting expeditions organised by the Committee have been carried on intermittently since that time, and a considerable amount of material, both published and unpublished, has been accumulated. Twenty-two Annual Reports of the Committee and five volumes dealing with the "Fauna and Flora" have been issued. At an early stage of the investigations it became evident that a Biological Station or Laboratory on the sea-shore nearer the usual collecting grounds than Liverpool would be a material assistance in the work. Consequently the Committee, in 1887, established the Puffin Island Biological Station on the North Coast of Anglesey, and later on, in 1892, moved to the more commodious and accessible Station at Port Erin in the centre of the rich collecting grounds of the south end of the Isle of Man. A larger Biological Station and Fish Hatchery, on a more convenient site at Port Erin, has since been erected, and was opened for work in July, 1902.

In these twenty-two years' experience of a Biological Station (five years at Puffin Island and seventeen at Port Erin), where College students and young amateurs form a large proportion of the workers, the want has been frequently felt of a series of detailed descriptions of the structure of certain common typical animals and plants, chosen as representatives of their groups, and dealt with by specialists. The same want has probably been felt in other similar institutions and in many College laboratories.

The objects of the Committee and of the workers at the Biological Station were at first chiefly faunistic and speciographic. The work must necessarily be so when opening up a new district. Some of the workers have published papers on morphological points, or on embryology and observations on life-histories and habits; but the majority of the papers in the volumes on the "Fauna and Flora of Liverpool Bay" have been, as was intended from the first, occupied with the names and characteristics and distribution of the many different kinds of marine plants and animals in our district. And this faunistic work will still go on. It is far from finished, and the Committee hope in the future to add still further to the records of the Fauna and Flora. But the papers in the present series, started in 1899, are quite distinct from these previous publications in name, in treatment, and in purpose. They are called "L.M.B.C. Memoirs," each treats of one type, and they are issued separately as they are ready, and will be obtainable Memoir by Memoir as they appear, or later bound up in convenient volumes. It is hoped that such a series of special studies, written by those who are thoroughly familiar with the forms of which they treat, will be found of value by students of Biology in laboratories and in Marine Stations, and will be welcomed by many others working privately at Marine Natural History.

The forms selected are, as far as possible, common L.M.B.C. (Irish Sea) animals and plants of which no adequate account already exists in the text-books. Probably most of the specialists who have taken part in the L.M.B.C. work in the past will prepare accounts of one or more representatives of their groups. The following list shows those who have either performed or promised.

Memoirs from I. to XIX. have now been published.

The present memoir, on Polychaet Larvae, by Mr. F. H. Gravely, differs from its predecessors inasmuch as it deals not with a single adult organism, but with a group of associated larval stages. It is believed that this new departure will prove useful to students of plankton at Biological Stations. Doris, by Sir C. Eliot, is far advanced and ought to be out during 1909. It is hoped that Zostera, Cucumaria, Buccinum, and the Oyster will follow soon.

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 CUCUMARIA, E. Hindle.
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As announced in the preface to ASCIDIA, a donation from the late Mr. F. H. Gossage, of Woolton, met the expense of preparing the plates in illustration of the first few Memoirs, and so enabled the Committee to commence the publication of the series sooner than would otherwise have been possible. Other donations received since from Mrs. Holt, Sir John Brunner, and others, are regarded by the Committee as a welcome encouragement, and have been a great help in carrying on the work.

W. A. HERDMAN.

University of Liverpool,

August, 1909.