

work of the fresh-water laboratories. Hitherto they have always been accomplished in the anatomical and physiological institutes in the University cities, and there I think they ought to remain. What is needed is a much more thorough co-operation between the fresh-water laboratories and the University institutions. This co-operation is lacking at this moment, partly because the fresh-water laboratories have misunderstood their main tasks and tried to study as if they themselves were University institutes, which they usually are unable to do, and which originally was by no means their aim. I am also inclined to think that the University institutes are a little contemptuous of the studies carried on by the laboratories in nature. If this originates from the common impression of the investigations hitherto, this is intelligible; if it originates from the supposition that the work accomplished by these laboratories is only to be regarded as pioneer work, thus implying inferiority in its scientific aspect as compared with all contributions to the solution of the great problems of life made by the University institutes, this is quite a misunderstanding. In our days only very few can carry out an investigation in all branches which lead to a solution of the question concerned: he who digs the gold out of the earth is not he who coins it, but the gold-digger is not on that account made the subject of reproach.

Before the new step above outlined in the development of the fresh-water laboratories can be accomplished, some time will certainly elapse. The laboratories themselves must educate the scientists who are able to carry out these studies. University education, as it now is, usually diverts the student from living nature: the young naturalists produced by the Universities have a much more intimate knowledge of nature preserved in alcohol and formalin. When they leave the Universities, stained and embedded nature is much more likely to occupy their attention and arouse the spirit of inquiry than living nature. It is the study of the living organisms in nature itself which must be regarded as an independent phase in nature study. In my opinion, it is just this study we need, and the fresh-water and marine laboratories should make it their first aim to bring it into existence.