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J. L. BETZ and P. H. CLARKE. Growth of *Pseudomonas* Species on Phenylacetamide
C. S. COX, J. BAXTER and B. J. MAIDMENT. A Mathematical Expression for Oxygen-induced Death in Dehydrated Bacteria
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THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1884 to promote accurate researches leading to the advancement of zoological and botanical science and to an increase in our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fishes. The work of the Association is controlled by a Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

Professor T. H. Huxley took the chair at the initial meeting held in the rooms of the Royal Society and was elected the first President. Among those present were Sir John Lubbock (afterwards Lord Avebury), Sir Joseph Hooker, Professor H. N. Moseley, Mr G. J. Romanes, and Sir E. Ray Lankester who, after Professor Huxley, was for many years president of the Association. It was decided to build a laboratory at Plymouth, where a rich and varied fauna is found.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888, and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, lecture-hall, and extensive laboratory accommodation with up-to-date equipment. Additional sea-water reservoirs have also been built, and an aquarium, modernized in 1959, opened to the public.

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by subscriptions and donations from private members, universities, learned societies, the Fishmongers' Company and other public bodies. For some time past, however, the main financial support for the work of the Plymouth Laboratory has come from Government funds, and since 1965 the Laboratory has been grant-aided through the Natural Environment Research Council.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, undertakes research in all branches of marine science and the main results are published in this journal. Accounts of the laboratory and aquarium are to be found in Vol. 27 (p. 761), Vol. 39 (p. 391) and Vol. 43 (p. 281), and summaries of the activities and research of the Association are given annually in the Report of the Council in the November issue of the Journal.

The laboratory is open throughout the year and its work is carried out by a fully qualified research staff under the supervision of the Director. The names of the members of the staff will be found on the inner page of the front cover. Accommodation is available for British and foreign scientific workers who wish to carry out independent research in all branches of marine science. Arrangements are made for courses for advanced students, and marine animals and plants are supplied to educational institutions.

Work at sea is undertaken by three research vessels and by a motor boat, and these also collect the specimens required in the laboratory.

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All correspondence should be addressed to the Director, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
DAVIES, J. M., FERRIER, N. C. and JOHNSTON, C. S. The ultrastructure of the meristoderm cells of the hapteron of <i>Laminaria</i>	237
STEBBING, A. R. D. Competition for space between the epiphytes of <i>Fucus serratus</i> L.	248
BONEY, A. D. Observations on the silicoflagellate <i>Dictyocha speculum</i> ehrenb. from the Firth of Clyde	263
GABBOTT, P. A. and BAYNE, B. L. Biochemical effects of temperature and nutritive stress on <i>Mytilus edulis</i> L.	269
HOLLAND, D. L. and SPENCER, B. E. Biochemical changes in fed and starved oysters, <i>Ostrea edulis</i> L. during larval development, metamorphosis and early spat growth	287
ABDULLAH, M. I., DUNLOP, H. M. and GARDNER, D. Chemical and hydrographic observations in the Bristol Channel during April and June 1971	299
SHAH, N. M. and FOGG, G. E. The determination of glycollic acid in sea water	321
REAY, P. J. Some aspects of the biology of the sandeel, <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i> L., in Langstone Harbour, Hampshire	325
RUSSELL, F. S., F.R.S. A summary of the observations on the occurrence of Planktonic stages of fish off Plymouth 1924-1972	347
STEVENS, J. D. Stomach contents of the blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i> L.) off South-West England	357
PILGRIM, R. L. C. Axial skeleton and musculature in the thorax of the hermit crab, <i>Pagurus bernhardus</i> [Anomura: Paguridae]	363
GIBBS, P. E. and PROBERT, K. Notes on <i>Gyptis capensis</i> and <i>Sosane sulcata</i> [Annelida: Polychaeta] from the Benthos off the South Coast of Cornwall	397
GEORGE, J. DAVID and SOUTHWARD, EVE C. A comparative study of the setae of Pogonophora and Polychaetous Annelida	403
HERON, A. C. A new type of heart mechanism in the invertebrates	425
HERON, A. C. A specialized predator-prey relationship between the copepod <i>Sapphirina angusta</i> and the pelagic tunicate <i>Thalia democratica</i>	429
NOTT, J. A. Settlement of the larvae of <i>Spirorbis spirorbis</i> L.	437
WALKER, G. Frontal horns and associated gland cells of the nauplii of the barnacles, <i>Balanus hameri</i> , <i>Balanus balanoides</i> and <i>Elminius modestus</i> (Crustacea: Cirripedia)	455
ABSTRACTS OF MEMOIRS	465
LIST OF BOOKS RECEIVED	469

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