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THE efficiency of a Marine Laboratory being in the highest degree dependent upon the completeness of its Library, the Director wishes to appeal to the Members and friends of the Marine Biological Association for help in forming as extensive a collection as possible of Zoological and Botanical literature.

The literature of Biology is at the present day so enormous that the Association has been able to do little more than form the nucleus of a scientific Library, partly by purchase, largely through the generosity of friends and public bodies.

The Library contains at the present date some 700 volumes. Thanks to the liberal support of English, Colonial, and Foreign Governments, it is fairly equipped with official works on Marine Fisheries. In purchasing books it has been the aim of the Association to procure, in the first place, such works as are obviously necessary for the systematic work of exploring the Fauna of Plymouth Sound.

The sum available for the purchase of new books and binding is not more than £50 a year—half of what was estimated—and nearly the whole of this is spent in the purchase of the leading scientific periodicals and in binding.

It is obvious, therefore, that if the Laboratory is to possess an efficient Library at an early date help must be invited from outside.

The Director wishes to suggest to Members of the Association that many of the extracts from English and foreign periodicals, especially of an early date, which may be of no further use to their possessors, would be

particularly useful to the Library of the Marine Biological Association. There must be many naturalists who have numbers of separate papers referring to groups of the animal and vegetable kingdoms in which they take no special interest, and if they would separate such papers and present them to the Library they would be conferring a great benefit on the Association.

The Director will also be much obliged if naturalists will send him separate copies of their scientific memoirs as they are published, and will be very glad to communicate with any gentleman who may wish to give or to leave books to the Association with the view of informing him what works are already in the Library and what are its chief desiderata.

PLYMOUTH;

*September 30th, 1889.*