

File 10/14/27

Chicago, Illinois - October 5, 1927 (EXCERPT FROM RECORD
OF INTERVIEWS WITH
DOCTOR ROSE)

Doctor Frank R. Lillie (For Luncheon at Hotel Del Prado)

1. Doctor Lillie, Doctor Merriam, Doctor Vaughan and some other scientists have been discussing the question of oceanography for two or three years. These discussions led to common understanding as to the importance of taking up the subject definitely. The matter was presented to the Academy at its meeting in the spring, and met with an enthusiastic reception. The Academy appointed a committee to mature a definite proposal. The committee is to have its first formal meeting within a few weeks. In the meantime the members have been considering the subject by correspondence. All are agreed that the subject falls into two main divisions: physical oceanography and marine biology. The two phases of the subject supplement each other and should be developed together.
2. The committee will possibly agree that it should secure a fund with which to provide a secretary with headquarters and traveling expenses, the secretary to be a scientist who is interested in the field of oceanography and who is qualified to lead in the development of the subject. He will be expected to give his entire time to it; to acquaint himself with the work which is being done in this and other countries, and, on the basis of the facts, to help the committee in maturing a proposal for undertaking the work in the U. S.
3. In so far as one can visualize the results of such study in advance, it would seem that the study might lead to the Academy's undertaking the establishment of an Institute of Oceanography at Woods Hole. If such an Institute should be established it would be regarded as an extension of the work in which the biologists at Woods Hole have already been engaged. The Institute would undertake to direct research in marine biology and would be equipped also to carry out certain studies in physical oceanography on a very limited scale in the coastal regions. The work of physical oceanography is so vast in proportion that only governments can maintain it on an adequate scale. The committee has reason to believe that the Government of the United States would be prepared to undertake its part. It has been cooperating with Vaughan in his oceanographic work carried on at La Jolla; has made possible the admirable work which Doctor Henry B. Bigelow has done in the Gulf of Maine. Doctor Bowie, a member of the committee of which Doctor Lillie is chairman, thinks Government would welcome opportunity to undertake the work in physical oceanography in connection with the work of the biologists and in cooperation with other governments in the same field.
4. If such an Institute were established at Woods Hole it would be open throughout the year and would offer special facilities for summer work by the biologists of all institutions in the country interested in this field. The effect of this would be the stimulating of interest in the subject in all institutions in the country, and the training of young men for work in this branch of the science. Doctor Lillie illustrated this by stating that general physiology in the United States began through Loeb at Woods Hole. By being associated there with other biologists, the influence of this work has now spread to all the more important institutions, so that general physiology is now recognized as one of the fundamental things in a well developed department of biology.
5. One could not, with any degree of accuracy, estimate the cost of such an Institute so far in advance. Very roughly, it would seem that it could be provided for \$3,000,000 in round numbers. Woods Hole has the land. The building would cost about \$500,000. The Institute should have for annual maintenance about \$100,000 a year. Allowing ample margin for the unexpected, it would seem that the whole could be done for about \$3,000,000 providing for building, equipment and endowment.