

stores; on one of these stands a filter for fresh water (F), and on the other side of the library door is a small table (L) with washing-apparatus. The whole building is warmed by a stove (St).

The station is neatly painted outside, and is rendered a very conspicuous object, both from sea and land, by the royal standard of Scotland, which floats from a flagstaff over the door.

Besides microscopes, dissecting-dishes, bottles, aquaria, books, &c., the station is well fitted with dredges, trawls, and canvas buckets for shore-collecting, and also provides wading-shoes, tarpaulins, and sou'-westers.

There are two boats attached to the establishment, a small fishing-smack and a "tub." But as these were often unable, owing to unfavourable weather, to sail beyond the mouth of the bay, a small steamboat is urgently needed to complete the efficiency of the station.

An Aberdeen fisherman was hired for the season, to take charge of the boats and to act as general factotum.

The Station was formally opened by Mr. Romanes on August 8, but the work actually began on the 3rd, and was continued until September 25. Altogether there have been sixteen workers, mostly Aberdeen students, the rest visitors from London and elsewhere. Several of these went out shore-collecting every day, a few dredged when practicable, and two dredging expeditions were made in H.M. gunboat *Netley*, the second of the two being a great success.

The fauna of the Aberdeen coast is not a remarkably rich one, but still a very respectable number of specimens was obtained in one way or another. I am indebted to Mr. A. W. Russell, M.A., of Marischal College, for a list of all the species collected; the list is too long for transcription, but may be abstracted as follows:—

	Genera.	Species.
<i>Porifera</i>	3	5
<i>Hydrozoa</i>	13	16
<i>Actinozoa</i>	6	8
<i>Turbellaria</i>	5	5
<i>Hirudinea</i>	1	1
<i>Chatopoda</i>	14	23
<i>Echinodermata</i>	13	20
<i>Pycnogonida</i>	2	2
<i>Crustacea</i>	12	30
<i>Polysoa</i>	9	10
<i>Tunicata</i>	5	7
<i>Mollusca</i>	40	57
<i>Pisces</i>	5	7
	128	191

It is definitely decided that, next summer, the Station is to be pitched at Cromarty Firth, a far more promising locality than Stonehaven Bay. By that time it is hoped that the funds, which are wholly derived from voluntary contributions, will be in a sufficiently flourishing condition to admit of the purchase of a steamboat.

It would not be a very great matter, one would think, for our English universities to follow the example of Aberdeen, and to provide themselves each with such an establishment on some part of the English coast; and the benefit to their students, who get to think of nudibranchs, echinoderms, and coelenterates as opaque, dull-coloured things in bottles, would be simply incalculable.

In the meantime I can, from experience, cordially recommend all English students of biology who are minded to begin research, as well as those who wish for nothing more than a thoroughly pleasant holiday and an opportunity of studying their science from the too-neglected "natural history" side, to spend two or three weeks of the long vacation at the Scottish Zoological Station.

T. JEFFERY PARKER

THE FOSSIL LOVERS

MISS ANN GELICA kindly sends us her reply to Bret Harte's Geological Madrigal, which she assures us is addressed to her. To enable the reader to understand the young lady's reply we prefix "Dear Bret's" verses:—

A GEOLOGICAL MADRIGAL
(After Shenstone)

I have found out a gift for my fair,
I know where the fossils abound,
Where the footprints of *Aves* declare
The birds that once walked on the ground;
O, come, and—in technical speech—
We'll walk this Devonian shore,
Or on some Silurian beach
We'll wander, my love, evermore.

I will show thee the sinuous track
By the slow-moving annelid made,
Or the Trilobite that, farther back,
In the old Potsdam sandstone was laid.
Thou shalt see, in his Jurassic tomb,
The Plesiosaurus embalmed;
In his Oolitic prime and his bloom,—
Iguanodon safe and unharmed!

You wished—I remember it well,
And I loved you the more for that wish—
For a perfect Cystitidian shell
And a *whale* holocephalic fish.
And O, if earth's strata contains
In its lowest Silurian drift,
Or Palæozoic remains
The same,—'tis your lover's free gift!

Then come, love, and never say nay,
But calm all your maidenly fears,
We'll note, love, in one summer's day,
The record of millions of years;
And though the Darwinian plan
Your sensitive feelings may shock,
We'll find the beginning of man,—
Our fossil ancestors in rock.

My Reply to Dear Bret's Madrigal

Thy epistle, dear Bret, I've received,
And trust thou'lt not think me too bold,
If I frankly acknowledge I'm grieved
At the thought that to thee I've been cold.

How sweetly thou managest wooing!
What a way to my heart thou hast found!!
Abandoning billing and cooing,
Thou tell'st me where fossils abound.

For ever henceforward I'm thine,
To view Ornithichnites I'm sighing;
(Don't delay,—for a ramble I pine),
To find them *in situ* am dying.

Tridactylous, struthious, and huge;
With phalanges nicely indented,
Entombed when Dame Nature with rouge.
The mail and the sandstone beds painted.

If thou wilt but extract me a femur,
With matrix just near the trochanter,
I'll abandon all maidenly tremor,
And at once name the day, thou enchanter.

I'll only make one stipulation:—
That, avoiding hotel, inn, and tavern,
We improve the time-honoured lunation,
And our honeymoon spend in a cavern.

There I'll labour, content in the fetter.
To find, happy thought! if I can,
A dear second husband and better,
A petrified pithecoïd man.

A. G.