

Why Study Biology?

By MARTHA STOLTZ

Wisdom, we know, is better than rubies, but most people still choose rubies—and in the end get neither. To say anything to college students about the importance of biology as a college subject may be quite unnecessary. However, it is well to keep in mind the basic principles of life. Frequently the important things in life are overlooked.

A careful study of the biological sciences will afford one a general preparation for a better understanding of plant and animal life. This knowledge will develop his capacity to enjoy nature and her processes. It will provide a richer background for his individual appreciation of what he sees around him. Everywhere, no matter where one turns he is confronted with endless biological phenomena. There are many strange and interesting things to be learned about animals and plants and though it is perfectly true that the best way to study them is in the field where they can be seen first hand, yet no one can deny that many happy and profitable hours can also be spent in reading about them and listening to lectures and discussions in the classroom.

The field of biology is so broad it would take too much time for a person to experiment in order to become acquainted with the secrets of the various branches of biological study. Therefore, he will do a large amount of reading in the different fields to acquire a firm foundation upon which to establish his own research in a chosen narrow field of study. The young scientist can begin where those before him have left off, provided he appreciates and understands what they have done. When a student enters upon this search for truth he will find it necessary that each act and statement shall be characterized by sincerity and integrity; that conclusions shall be drawn with utmost care; and that patience be his constant watchword.

In college courses in the biological sciences one acquires a background of fundamentals from which there extends before him many avenues along which he may proceed. There is a field open for the worker in pure research. There are many opportunities in this great country of ours. By reading such publications as the Experiment Station Record or

other government material it is possible to follow some of the work being done in research. Commercial research may appeal to the student who has finished his University course, and he may become associated with some large commercial firm or the government service. There are opportunities offered by large foundations such as the Rockefeller or Boyce-Thompson Institute.

Each year there are those who enter the medical schools. The training there is keen and intensive, and the competition for entrance is increasing, so that the better one is prepared in college life, the better are his chances for success in his professional training.

The teaching world will always need well trained biology teachers in all parts of the educational system, from grade and high school teachers to college and university professors, and teachers in the professional schools.

Ottawa university recognizes that individual students have different likes and dislikes, some being interested in one line of work and some in another, but just as there are many types of minds so there are many types of biological service, and each person should strive to find the place in which he will best fit.

Finally, a student may wish to study biology for biology's sake in order to satisfy himself as to questions of a biological nature and he may never enter it as a life work. His whole life will be richer in understanding because he has had the privilege of taking biology courses during his college days.

The student entering the ministry will find that a knowledge of biology will help him to understand the problems that are constantly arising, and he will have a fund of knowledge from which he may draw material for enriching his sermons with many illustrations and salient points. The great God of the universe will become even more majestic and loving in the eyes of those who really understand His many and varied pieces of handiwork. All through life everyone is meeting questions of biological character. The better he understands the principles involved, the better he is able to interpret.



Miss Stoltz, a popular and efficient member of the faculty, gives her reasons for liking her chosen field of study.