

recognized the importance of a thorough study of the physical characteristics of the region adjacent to Baltimore.

In the winter of 1876-7 Professor J. E. Hilgard, the Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, was invited to the University to give a course upon "The Methods and Results of extended Territorial Surveys carried on in America and in Europe." Twenty lectures were delivered, in the course of which the features of the Chesapeake basin were considered. A model showing the relief of the region of Druid Hill Park was prepared for use in the lectures, and was subsequently presented to the city.

A study of the physical resources of Maryland was subsequently undertaken by the members of the Biological Department, who particularly investigated the fauna and flora of the area. The organization of the Chesapeake Zoological Laboratory in the summer of 1878 under the immediate charge of Dr. W. K. Brooks marked the beginning of systematic work in this direction. A close association with the Maryland Fish Commission was effected, and in 1879 the laboratory was stationed at Crisfield, where an excellent opportunity was afforded for the special study of the oyster-beds of the Chesapeake. The results of this work were subsequently published as a report of the Maryland Fish Commission in a volume entitled "The Development of the American Oyster."

In 1880 the Baltimore Naturalist's Field Club was organized under the direction of Professor H. N. Martin of the University for the study of the fauna, flora, geology and physical geography of the neighborhood of Baltimore. The club was founded "in order to endeavor to meet the recognized want in the city of some organization for the active promotion of field work in natural history." All members of the University and residents of Baltimore of known attainments as naturalists were eligible for election to the club. The club began with twenty-two members, which number was doubled before the close of the year, much interest being manifested in the study of the region about Baltimore as the result of the weekly excursions which were made. Addresses were delivered before the club from time to time upon natural history, one, among others, by Professor P. R.