hydrogen bond distances and angles are listed in Table II.

Details of the investigations will be published elsewhere in due course.

The author wishes to acknowledge his grateful thanks to Professor G. N. Ramachandran for helpful guidance during these investigations.

1. Buerger, M. J., *Acta Cryst.*, 1951, **4**, 531.
2. Kartha, G. and Ramachandran, G. N., *Ibid.*, 1955, **8**, 1955.
3. Srinivasan, R., *Ibid.*, 1956, **9**, 1039.
4. Viervoll, H. and Ögrim, O., *Ibid.*, 1949, **2**, 277.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION, PORTO NOVO (S. INDIA)

A BIOLOGICAL STATION on the banks of Vellar estuary at Porto Novo had been the dream of the Zoology Department of the Annamalai University ever since its inception in 1931. The station however came into being only in 1951 with some improvised equipment, and was located in a tenanted building, situated close to the foreshore at Porto Novo, which was transferred later to the University, as a generous gift by the South Arcot District Board for the development of a marine biological station. Financial aid came first from the Ministry of Education, New Delhi, and later from the Madras State Government for the development of the station.

This enabled the University to adequately equip the station with oceanographic instruments, cruising boats including a sturdy seaworthy 35 ft. research vessel equipped with apparatus for investigations in fundamental as well as applied aspects of marine and estuarine biology.

A newly constructed annex to the building, which was recently declared open by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, provides moderate accommodation for a hydrobiological laboratory, an aquarium, ichthyological museum, and also for certain lines of biochemical and biophysical work.

With its proximity to the sea, the estuary, the fresh-water head, and the backwaters connecting with the Coleroon, the Porto Novo Biological Station has especially good opportunities for distinctive lines of work relating to the evolution of biochemical adaptations in organisms, and for gaining a comparative picture of the basic factors that control the productivity of different waters.

The work at the biological station has so far been in what may be termed 'hobby spirit', and as a side activity of the Zoology Department, without any special and permanent staff. However, several cruises have been conducted in the sea as well as in the estuary, and valuable data systematically recorded. Planktonic studies, faunistic surveys, observations on tidal cycles and transmission of different wavelengths of radiant energy in the neritic and estuarine waters have been a routine aspect of the work of the Porto Novo Biological Station. The bottom fauna of the estuary and the inshore waters has been dredged and its ecology is under investigation. The consolidation of the results of all these studies is in progress.

Apart from the routine lines of work, the investigation of the biochemical aspects of the reproductive cycles of certain estuarine fish and the quantitative study of the amino acids of the fishes of Porto Novo have been in progress for some time, and the role of some trace elements in estuarine ecology and the ionic regulation in some of the estuarine molluscs and fish are on the current programme of study.

With generous and substantial encouragement from the University Grants Commission, with the keen interest evinced by the authorities of the Annamalai University, and also with a capital of zeal, industry and spirit of intellectual enterprise, the Porto Novo Biological Station hopes to soon augment its facilities, and intensify its research activities.