

where an offending tumor lies. My present purpose, however, is not so much to impress you with the difficulties of making a sane diagnosis, as to caution you against the making of an insane one. An ill-balanced judgment in diagnosing disease is one of the commonest faults of the physician, and if the nature of the disease is not discovered, the success of the treatment is not even problematical.

The moral of my tale is quickly drawn. It is, first of all, for you, who are to become healers of the sick, to be sane. It is for you diligently to seek after the truth, and, having found it, to follow its teachings. But you can do more than this, and it is your duty to do more. With your training and with your growing experience, your opinion in matters of health and of disease, in whatever pertains to the human body, will be sought and will deserve respect if that opinion is in accord with what learned men have declared to be wisdom. You will thus be called upon to be mentors and teachers. I plead, therefore, not only for sanity in your own beliefs and practises, but for the constant exercise of your enlightened influence toward the eradication of what has pithily been called "pestilential nonsense" from the minds of your patients and your fellow-men. Swayed by sentiment, they will often seek the bizarre, the foolish and the delusive. "The time will come," said a wise man, "when they will not endure the sound doctrine. . . . They will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." They will hold to their opinions with the tenacity that is born of ignorance. Montaigne has said that "nothing is so firmly believed as that which a man knoweth least." You will have many opportunities to show to the world that the way toward strange gods is not the way of salvation. You should hail the

chance of thus becoming missionaries of common sense to those less well equipped than you. May you make good use of your education and your powers, and, both as physicians and as citizens, always stand as staunch defenders of the gospel of sanity.

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*ANTON DOHRN, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR  
OF THE NAPLES AQUARIUM*

ANTON DOHRN, founder and director of the Naples Zoological Station, or, as it is more popularly called, "The Aquarium," died in Munich after a protracted illness, on September 26. His death severed one more link which connected the present generation with a group of great men, most of whom were his intimate friends, Darwin, Huxley, Virchow, DuBois-Raymond, Helmholtz and Pasteur. The story of his life is of special, no less than general, interest to Americans. Idealism rendered effective through the will and creative genius is the mark of an unusual combination of mental traits and that, in brief, was the keynote of his personality.

Anton Dohrn was born at Stettin in the year 1840. His father, a man in affluent circumstances, was extremely solicitous that his sons should fully appreciate the responsibility attaching to the possession of wealth; and the paternal admonition to the younger Dohrn to choose his own profession provided it was not a money-making one, proves that the form of idealism of the son, to which he always remained true, was in part, at least, inherited.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Professor Dohrn were greatly impressed, not only by his remarkable versatility, but by the great capacity he displayed in dealing successfully with men and affairs. His power to administer and direct the organization of a large institution never seemed to diminish his interest in, nor his ability to carry on scientific investigations of great importance. Honored by the personal friendship of the German Emperor, and received as a not infrequent guest by families of the greatest distinction in Europe, he never permitted the

orderly simplicity of his daily life to be disturbed by outside influences. Goethe's words emphasizing the necessity of plain living as essential to high thinking were constantly on his lips, and he furnished an excellent example of the simple life so often the subject of sermons, and so rarely practised.

Apart from his remarkable personality, there is a reason why Dohrn's life should be of particular interest to Americans, and that is the influence he exerted upon men who were actively identified with all progressive movements in institutions of learning. Shortly before his death the writer had the privilege of spending some time in the company of the late Mr. Daniel C. Gilman during his visit to the Naples Aquarium, and it was extremely interesting to notice the keen and appreciative interest he took in the work of the investigators then engaged in carrying on their studies in the laboratories. "Dohrn," he said, "was one of the first men whose advice I sought for on being elected to the presidency of the Johns Hopkins University, and when I asked him what he considered to be the really essential principle to be kept constantly in view in outlining the policy of a new university, he replied: 'Liberty! Liberty! Liberty!' and added: 'First get the best available men as professors, and do not spend too much money on buildings.'" The advice was not disregarded, for not only were the buildings of the Johns Hopkins University characterized by great simplicity in structure, but the motto selected for the university was "*Veritas vos liberabit*." Dohrn's guiding principle in establishing the aquarium was to gather about him a body of investigators, and then to enlarge the institution so as best to meet the needs of these workers.

Many Americans carried away from Naples pleasant memories of a day spent on the *Jo-hannes Müller*, the small steamer which made frequent excursions to different points about the Bay of Naples, either to collect specimens for exhibition in the aquarium, or for study by those engaged in scientific investigations. One of the most interesting features of these trips was the opportunity of listening to the

story of the founding and development of the zoological station as it was told with almost boyish enthusiasm by Dohrn.

Scientist by profession, he had many of the temperamental qualities of the artist. If he had not possessed this rare combination of mental traits, his friend Joachim would not have put Dohrn's favorite Neapolitan "Fis-herman's Song" to music and sent the score to Oxford, to be played at the ceremonies attending the conferring of an honorary degree upon his friend by the English university; nor would Hans v. Marée have asked to be allowed to decorate the walls of the library in the aquarium with a series of frescoes, which are considered by art critics to represent the best work of that artist.

Dohrn firmly believed in the unity of all forms of knowledge. He contended that men should not be classified arbitrarily as "scien-tists," "artists" or "litterateurs"; as indi-vidually they possessed but in varying de-grees the temperamental qualities common to all. To lay stress upon these artificial divi-sions was to return in spirit to the period when classification and systematization were considered of more value than the actual study of vital facts.

Discussions as to the relative merits of science, art or literature failed to interest him, for he felt deeply that life in its broadest sense was for each individual the chief inter-est; the only essential difference was discov-erable not in the object, but in the angle of vision of the observer.

His taste in literature and art was dis-tinctly classical. Cicero, Horace, Shake-speare and Goethe were his favorite authors, selections from Beethoven, or Mendelssohn and Brahms the music he enjoyed the most. In pictorial art, color appealed to him more than form. Perhaps in this he had been influ-enced by his friend Böcklin. The whole scheme of organization of the aquarium re-vealed the broad sympathies of the man.

One of the chief reasons assigned for the selection of Naples in 1872 as the best place in which to place the station was the beauty and historical associations of the city and its

surroundings. These two factors Dohrn considered to be of the greatest importance in indirectly influencing the character of the work to be undertaken.

The events of the past year have proved how fortunate it was that Naples, and not Messina, as was originally intended, should be the site of the aquarium.

In the organization of the aquarium the university idea was developed to a degree never before practically realized. In practise as well as theory this was an institution of learning as distinct from teaching. Here are gathered together at one time as many as seventy or eighty representatives of the leading universities of the world; professors, assistants and occasionally undergraduate students, all engaged in carrying on investigations. (The expenses of the zoological station are in part defrayed by money received from the sale of entrance tickets to the aquarium, and in part by the subvention of different countries. Germany pays for 22 places in the laboratory, Italy for 9, the United States for 5, England for 3, Russia 4, Austria 2, Hungary, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Roumania each 1.)

Here zoologists, chemists, anatomists, physiologists, pathologists, practising physicians and professional philosophers are all intent upon the study of various problems, the solution of which will eventually throw more light upon the origin and nature of the vital processes in the lower organisms, and consequently and ultimately in man. Thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Darwin, Dohrn long ago realized that the only successful way to understand the complex phenomena of human life was to begin by studying the simpler manifestations in the lower animals. The continuity and similarity of the life processes in the whole scale of animal life is unbroken. "You scientists have little understanding of history," complained Mommsen; "Why assume," retorted Dohrn, "that history begins and ends with man's appearance on the earth? Here in the aquarium we are interested in ancient history, for here we study man's ancestors."

From the crest of the mountains back of

Sorrento, turning to the south, one looks down upon the Gulf of Salerno, on whose shores for centuries stood the most famous medical school of medieval times, where were gathered from the shores of Africa and Europe the most renowned students of their day. To-day, only the memory of that school remains. Turning to the north one beholds the great expanse of the Bay of Naples, and by the aid of a glass discovers the aquarium, the institution which to-day has fallen heir to all that was best in the traditions of the Salerno school. The latter was a slow growth, the result of the labors of many men upbuilding painfully for many years while the Naples Aquarium was the creation of one man—Anton Dohrn, whose life was devoted to devising and perfecting unequaled facilities for the study of zoology; and he builded better than he knew, for he actually, although unconsciously, created a university. Year after year a greater number of trained investigators, representing practically all the civilized governments of the world, are gathered together at the aquarium than are to be found in any other institution in the world. Within this building, racial prejudices and differences are ignored or forgotten by their brotherhood of scholars who carry on their work for the benefit of their common humanity.

The scientific work of Dohrn has received generous commendation from his fellow workers in the sciences, but it still remains for those who labor to preserve the peace of the world to show their appreciation of the quiet, unostentatious but potent influence upon the thought of mankind of "the peace congress" which is continuously in session at the Naples Aquarium.

STEWART PATON

PRINCETON, N. J.

#### THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the society at 10 A.M., on December 29, in the University Museum, Cambridge, there will be a Conference on the Aspects of Paleontology, the program of which is as follows:

Adequacy of the Paleontologic Record: Samuel Calvin, R. S. Bassler.