

Staffordshire, which will be gratefully acknowledged.

The last letter in the collection, also unpublished, is a three-page quarto dated Derby, May 29, 1787. It is addressed simply: "Dr. Franklin, America," and opens in the grandiloquent style of the time, as follows:

Dear Sir,

Whilst I am writing to a Philosopher & a Friend, I can scarcely forget that I am also writing to the greatest Statesman of the present, or perhaps of any century. . . .

I can with difficulty descend to plain prose after these sublime ideas, to thank you for your kindness to my son Robt. Darwin⁴ in France, & to converse with you about what may arise in philosophy, which I know will make the most agreeable part of my letter to you.

Then he speaks at length of some electrical experiments performed by a Mr. Bennet, "a Curate in my neighbourhood," who "has found out a method of doubling the smallest conceivable quantity of either plus or minus electricity, till it becomes perceptible to a common electrometer, or increases to a spark."

The end of the letter is interesting and worth quoting in full since it gives the history of the first translation of Linnæus's botanical writings into English.

In respect to other philosophical news, I have just heard from Mr. Wedgewood that Mr. Herschel has discover'd 3 Volcanoes in the Moon now burning.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you, I have removed from Lichfield to Derby & have superintended a publication of a translation of the botanical works of Linnæus, viz. *The System of Vegetables* in two volumes 8^{vo}. & the *Genera or Families of Plants* in 2 vol, 8^{vo}. also.—I did this with design to propagate the knowledge of Botany. They are sold to the booksellers at 14/ the *System of Vegetables*—the *Genera* will be finished in a month, & will be sold to the booksellers at 12/ I believe,—but as we are to pay for advertizing & carriage, I expect we shall not clear more than 10/ on each set. If the work had been finished I should have sent you it by the favor of Mr. Nichlin, who is so kind as to take the care of this letter. If I thought 20 sets of each were likely

to be sold I would send them at 10/ a set of each, that is 20/ for the four volumes. And indeed would now have sent them by Mr. Nichlin, had the whole been ready, as I think they would not be worth reprinting in America, & perhaps 20 sets would be as many as could find purchasers.

A Line from you at your leisure, only to acquaint me that you continue to possess a tolerable share of health would be very acceptable to, dear Sr. with true esteem

Your most obed. ser.

E. DARWIN

L. HUSSAKOF

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SVEN MAGNUS GRONBERGER

SVEN MAGNUS GRONBERGER, of the library staff of the Smithsonian Institution, died at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, on April 24, after an illness of about three weeks. He leaves two older brothers and a nephew, resident in Stockholm, Sweden; his estate he bequeathed to this nephew.

Mr. Gronberger, who was a native of Sweden, born August 19, 1866, was graduated in 1884 from the gymnasium of Norrköping, an historic old city on the Baltic about seventy-five miles south of Stockholm. In 1886, after visiting France and England, he went to New York City, where he studied law and in 1907 came to Washington. As a student of natural science he was preparing for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at George Washington University, with topics zoology and geology, in which subjects he had published several papers, and articles in *Forest and Stream*. He was an accomplished linguist, knowing perfectly French (which was his home language as a member of the nobility of Sweden, his mother being a countess) and the Scandinavian tongues, including some Icelandic, and being versed also in English, German, Italian and other European languages and literatures, besides Latin and Greek. For a number of years Mr. Gronberger made a special study of zoological parks as factors in the popularization of natural science, especially in connection with the Bronx Zoological Park of New York and the National Zoological Park at Washington. He was a member of the Biological

⁴ The father of Charles Darwin.

Society of Washington, the Anthropological Society of Washington, the American Ornithological Union, the Audubon Society, and the Writers Club of Washington.

Mr. Gronberger wrote an exhaustive monograph on the "Palearctic Birds of Greenland," the first thorough study attempted of the subject, being a review of the occurrence of European and Asiatic species in Greenland from the middle of the eighteenth century to the present time, publication of which is in charge of the United States National Museum. He published a study of "Birds near Washington," in *Forest and Stream*. A paper by him on "The Origin of the Goths" deals with the Gothic migration from Scandza, or Scandinavia, as described by Jordanes and the corroborating evidence of a celebrated runic inscription in Sweden; probably to be brought out in Stockholm. Publication of a recent study of the Batrachia Salientia or Anura of the District of Columbia is in charge of the National Museum. He left also a life of the religious mystic, "Saint Bridget [Brigitt] of Sweden," based on the best historical sources available. An address by Mr. Gronberger on "Modern Swedish Literature" will be published by the Writers Club of Washington, with a biographical sketch and portrait of the author.

F. E. FOWLE

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDWARD S. MORSE has been reelected president of the Boston Society of Natural History.

UNDER the retiring clause in the faculty regulations of Stanford University, Dr. David Starr Jordan has, as has already been noted in *SCIENCE*, been made chancellor emeritus; Dr. Oliver Peebles Jenkins has been made professor emeritus of physiology and histology, and Dr. Lillian Jane Martin, professor emerita of psychology.

SIR T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, regius professor of physics at the University of Cambridge, has been nominated by the council to be president of the British Medical Association. On account of the war the annual meeting at Cam-

bridge will be postponed, but the statutory general meeting will be held in London, on July 28.

WE regret to learn that Professor Elie Metchnikoff, head of the Pasteur Institute at Paris, France, who has been ill since January with heart trouble has become worse.

PROFESSOR WM. BULLOCK CLARK, head of the department of geology at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States a member of a committee of five to discuss with the representatives of organized labor a modification of the anti-trust laws by which co-operative agreements under the regulation of the Federal Trade Commission might be allowed in those industries dealing with the primary natural resources.

At the annual dinner of the Geological Journal Club, of Columbia University, on May 17, the students and members of the departmental faculty presented to Professor Amadeus W. Grabau a copy of Suess's "The Face of the Earth," in commemoration of the completion of fifteen years of active service as a teacher in Columbia University and as a philosophical student of geology. Mr. S. H. Knight, fellow in paleontology, made the presentation. Professor Grabau also received an anonymous gift of \$150 from a former student for the furtherance of his research in stratigraphy and paleontology.

PROFESSOR AUGUST VON WASSERMANN, head of the Royal Institute for Infectious Diseases at Berlin, will become director of the Institute for Experimental Therapy at Frankfort, in succession to the late Professor Paul Ehrlich.

DR. F. F. MARTINEZ, who has published several works on tropical medicine, has been appointed director of the newly organized Institute of Tropical Medicine at Granada.

DR. WILLIAM PALMER LUCAS, San Francisco, professor of pediatrics in the University of California Medical School, has gone to Europe to aid in the organization of children's work for the American Commission for Relief in Belgium.