

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1920

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THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION

ON a recent visit to Naples the writer discussed with Professor Filippo Bottazzi details of the war management of the Naples Zoological Station and its proposed future disposition—a subject that will be of interest to the readers of SCIENCE.

In the train of events following May, 1815, R. Dohrn, director of the station, and all the German personnel, departed. The zoological station was taken over by the Italian government. The management was placed under the administration of a special commission composed of Professor F. S. Monticelli, of the University of Naples; Professor L. De Marchi, of the University of Padua, and Comm. G. Biraghi, department chief of the Ministry of Education. Professor Monticelli was made president of the commission. This commission then appointed Professor U. Pierantoni, of the University of Naples, director of the zoological section of the station; Professor F. Bottazzi, of the University of Naples, director of the physiological section, and some other assistants.

By a decree May 26, 1918, the commission placed the station under the auspices of the Ministry of Education as an autonomous institution; and by another decree, June 9, 1918, the statute compiled by the commission itself was approved and now governs the administrative management of the station.

The part of the statute which concerns the scientific management of the station has aroused objections from those interested in the physiology and physiological chemistry sections, as there was a feeling that in time these two sections would be overshadowed. Without going into the details of the discussion of this portion of the statute, for the formation of which the president of the commission seems to have been solely responsible, it suffices to

say that at present the main objection is the method of appointing the scientific staff and of apportioning the appropriations among the different sections. The director of the station, who, according to the now existing statute, must be a zoologist, has sole control of the recommendation for the appointment and discharge of the entire scientific staff, assistants, and other attendants, and also makes recommendations for the financing of the station.

The station is now—and has been since the approval of the decree by the commission, June, 1918—under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Education. This is a temporary arrangement and will continue until June, 1921.

A committee of eleven has lately been appointed to formulate a plan for the future organization of the station. Of these, three never took part, and two others were called away on urgent business after the beginning of the deliberations. Of the six who participated in the discussion, five—Professor V. Volterra (Rome), Professor P. Del Pezzo (Naples), Professor D. Carazzi (Florence), Professor F. Bottazzi (Naples), and Comm. Martini (of the Ministry of Education)—made a majority report, May, 1920, with one—Professor F. S. Monticelli—dissenting.

The committee recommend that the zoological station be an autonomous institution open to Italian and foreign investigators alike. They also recommend that the state provide an annual subsidiary for the maintenance of the station to be divided, as recommended by the commission, between the Ministry of Education, the Committee on Oceanography, and the Ministry of Agriculture, all of which are interested in the future welfare of the station.

The station would thus be of the same character as other autonomous institutions, having an organization which would presuppose its administrative and scientific autonomy; and at the same time the Italian government would support it with annual appropriations. Each contributing organization of the state would reserve a given number of tables for its investigators.

The committee also recommend that the rules and regulations now in force be retained, and changes be made only where necessary to carry out the plans as set forth in the report. The most important change is that in the statute relating to the appointment of the director of the station and the scientific personnel. The committee recommend modifications that will guarantee the stability and welfare of all the sections of the station. The scientific personnel is to be placed on the same footing as that of civil employees of the state.

The essential points of the statute recommended by the committee can be briefly stated:

1. The station is to be—as approved by the decree of May 26, 1918—an autonomous institution for the investigation of marine biology; open alike, and on the same basis, to Italians and foreigners.

2. The station is to have the full control and the use of all funds and property belonging to it as proclaimed by the municipality of Naples, July 30, 1917.

3. The sources of income are to be:

- (a) Appropriations of the Ministry of Education.

- (b) Appropriations of the Committee on Oceanography.

- (c) Appropriations of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (d) Appropriations of the Municipality of Naples.

- (e) Proceeds of public contributions and from Italian and foreign institutions.

- (f) Proceeds from the fees of admission to the public aquarium.

- (g) Proceeds from tables secured by Italians and foreigners for study.

- (h) All other sources.

4. The station will administer its own funds.

5. The station is to have a council of administration composed thus:

- (a) Three members appointed by the municipality of Naples. The mayor is president *ex officio*.

- (b) Three members appointed by the Ministry of Education.

(c) Three members appointed by the Committee on Oceanography.

(d) One member appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(e) The director of the station.

This council is to have charge of the financing and the administration of the station.

6. Each regular contributor will be allowed to take part in the administration of the station and, according to the rules of the statute, will be given tables in proportion to the contribution.

7. The director legally represents the station and is responsible to the council of administration.

8. The station is composed of sections of zoology, physiology, and physiological chemistry. The council of administration has the power to organize other sections within certain specifications.

9. The scientific staff is composed of the directors of the various sections of the station, the assistants, and librarian.

10. The directors of the different sections are chosen through competing examinations following the general rules governing the university competing examinations and special regulations to be fixed in the statute. From these the council of administration selects one as director of the station. The director of the station serves for three years and may be reappointed. These will constitute the scientific council. The scientific council provides for the regulation of the station and collaborates in the preparation of the budget pertaining to the financial needs of single sections.

11. The assistants and librarian will be appointed by the council of administration according to the rules to be fixed by the statute. The council of administration also has charge of the appointment of all other of the station personnel.

12. The personnel according to 10 constituting the scientific staff must devote their entire time to the work of the station. The same laws governing civil employees will apply to them.

As the writer understands it, these proposed changes will not prohibit private subscriptions

for tables by either Italian or foreign institutions, and such tables may be taken as in pre-war times.

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RESOLUTIONS OF THE PAN-PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

II. ANTHROPOLOGY

1. *Need for Polynesian Research*

RECOGNIZING the necessity for the immediate prosecution of anthropological research in Polynesia, this conference calls the attention of governments, patrons of research and research foundations to this important scientific need. We

Recommend that the most prompt and efficient steps be taken to record the data necessary to the understanding of man's development in the Pacific area.

2. *Facilities for Instruction and Research in Anthropology*

Since there is urgent need both for anthropological research and the training of men and women therefore, and since experience has shown the advantage of close association between the graduate departments of universities and persons and institutions carrying on anthropological investigations, this conference

Recommends the creation of centers for the study of anthropology and original research therein, such centers to be developed by the expansion of university departments or the alliance of universities with other research institutions with the result that these schools of anthropology shall combine all the essential features of a museum, a research staff and a graduate school. And, further, because of the peculiar conditions under which anthropological data must be gathered necessitating both intensive field work in circumscribed areas extending over several years, and intensive synthetic work by men who are masters in many fields, thus requiring a number of men through a period of years, we therefore recommend the establishment of research fel-