

fessor of bacteriology at the University of Illinois. Dr. Tanner and the institute will work closely with a special committee of experts from the paper industry.

A CORRESPONDENT from Cannes of the London *Times* writes that at St. Michel de Provence, on the plateau of Aurifeuille, five miles from Forcalquier, a new observatory has been built which is not only the largest but the most favorably placed climatically in Europe.

The site, which is at an altitude of over 2,000 feet, was decided upon after ten years of research. The 80-inch telescope at present in service at the Paris Observatory will be transported there. The observatory and the buildings attached have been designed in the Provencal style of architecture. They owe their existence to the initiative of M. Jean Perrin, who secured the financial backing while he was Under-Secretary of State for Scientific Research.

DISCUSSION

CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION

JUST a few years ago there were a number of American subscriptions to tables in the *Stazione Zoologica di Napoli*, but at the present time apparently there is only one—that of the National Research Council to which subscription was first made for the year beginning July 1, 1938. The fact that up to this time no applications for this table have been received may perhaps be attributed to distrust of conditions in Europe at the present time, or it may be that merely by chance the year has been one in which the need of American biologists for the facilities and materials of foreign stations has been at a temporary minimum. It has been thought, too, that with some persons there might be uncertainty as to the normality of operation of the laboratory. In reply to an inquiry addressed to Dr. Dohrn, director of the station, he has written, giving information that may be of interest to American biologists in general. He says:

It is quite natural that there should be some apprehension over things as they stand at present. However, during the past and the current year biologists have come to work in Naples from all parts of Europe, and, what is more, they have been able to work in an atmosphere of almost unruffled calm, and certainly one of happiness and contentment. It is therefore a great pity that this apprehension should not have been overridden. The presence here of American biologists is always a welcome addition to the body of workers with us and a most effective means for securing continued cooperative relations between biologists of our two countries.

However, it seems to me quite as possible that the fundamental trouble is lack of knowledge of the *Stazione Zoologica* in America, and of the facilities that it offers. Probably, too, some knowledge of the present activities of the Station would serve as a stimulus to American biologists, and to this end I am enclosing a list of the more important figures of the scientific world who have worked here during the past year, with a note appended to each of the subjects under investigation.

As to facilities it is, I suppose, natural to stress the quantity and variety of living material obtainable at Naples. Then there is the excellence of the conditions under which organisms can be kept in captivity in the Station and, no less important, the conditions under which

the biologist himself may work. I am enclosing two leaflets which will perhaps do something to illustrate the extent of the apparatus and supply of reagents which are available to all. Finally we have here at Naples one of the richest biological libraries in the world for scientific periodicals, journals and abstracts; this is of eminent value to the research worker who has constantly to refer to literature relevant to his work.

I would also like to emphasize the value of foreign experience for the young American biologist, especially in reference to the contact which he can thus make with techniques and scientific ideas of European biologists, with the human element of the contact by no means the least important. As a sideline, too, I might perhaps mention the excellent opportunity for picking up a working knowledge of Italian and German, while working at Naples. Lastly, what perhaps requires no words of mine to stress is the beauty of Naples and of its environs.

You suggested very kindly in your letter to me that you could perhaps do something to give publicity to a few of the things I have mentioned about work at the *Stazione Zoologica*. I hope and think that this would improve the possibility of our seeing Americans working here next year, and for this reason I trust most sincerely that you can do so. If there should be any further details which you would like me to let you have, I shall be only too glad to forward them.

I cannot close this letter without thanking you once more for the special kindness and thought that you have shown to the Station, and I do most sincerely hope that we may soon return to the conditions of fruitful cooperation so valuable in the past. I shall be very thankful for anything that you can do to help bring about such a situation.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ PROF. R. DOHRN

The lists to which Dr. Dohrn refers, an extended inventory of more recently acquired biological and physical apparatus and rolls of leading investigators from many countries, predominantly British and German, engaged in work at the station in 1938 and the early part of 1939 are, of course, available for consultation in the office of the Council in Washington.

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