

91.—THE ZOOLOGICAL STATION AT NAPLES, ITALY.**By Prof. ANTON DOHRN.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

Inasmuch as I have thrown my whole existence into the creation of zoological stations, I shall give you all the information I am able. You are right in supposing that there is no description of the establishment which I have founded here. General descriptions exist in almost all European languages, since the zoological station offers a charming occasion for newspaper articles. But such descriptions would not help you a bit, as they leave out all that is technically important.

I think it advisable to send you a series of photographs which have been made lately for a present at the silver wedding of the German crown prince and crown princess. Both have been very intimate with every particular of my enterprise from its very beginning. Both make visits to the zoological station, and I have the honor of giving them annually a verbal and several written communications on the progress of the establishment.

Perhaps you know from earlier communications that I have introduced a system of so-called "tables," which forms the basis both for the scientific use and for the maintenance of the station. A table means the right to occupy a working table in the laboratory of the station, and to use all the help which is offered by the entire establishment. Such tables are paid for by different Governments, with 2,000 francs per annum. Italy has hired 4 tables, Prussia 3, Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse and Hamburg together each 1, Russia 2, Holland 1, Belgium 1, Switzerland 1, Hungary 1, the University of Cambridge 1, the British Association 1, University of Strasburg 1, Berlin Academy 1. The latter gave me a steam yacht in exchange for ten years use of a table, and Strasburg keeps its table for fifteen years as recompense for 100,000 marks being put into my establishment by the German Imperial Government.

The United States are not represented. I believe I wrote some years ago to you about this; certainly I sent Professor Agassiz an account of it. Several American naturalists have applied for admission. Some months ago Professor Huxley asked me to permit a pupil of his, Miss Nunn from Ohio, to occupy one of the English tables. I told him that I could not do so, except as a special kindness to him, since the English tables were only to be occupied by Englishmen. He requested that special favor, for at least a few weeks, till an Englishman could be appointed. This being now the case, Miss Nunn having also expressed most urgently her desire to be permitted to continue her work here, I am at a loss what to do. I ought to send her away. That is a duty

imposed upon me by all those who pay regularly for a table even when it is not occupied a year or more. Some weeks ago I got another application, from Mr. Wilson, of the Johns Hopkins University. He wished especially to obtain the method of microscopical work used in the station. He says that he has no claim to a table, but hopes I may be able to find him a way out of his difficulty. A year ago Dr. Whitman, who was in Japan, came here to ask the same favor. I permitted him to work here as my personal guest. Dr. Scott, from Princeton College, told me he would have some students, too, if America had a table. Others have told me the same. I should be only too glad if I could permit all of them to study here. I believe there is now no laboratory in the world which offers such a combination of means, both technical and other, as the Naples station. But I must stick to my rules and laws in order to maintain the existence and further development of the institution.

I think now there is nobody in America in a better position to regulate this affair than yourself. Is it not possible for the Smithsonian Institution, or the National Museum, or the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries to keep permanently a table in the Naples station? I have written to Dr. Wilson, also, to try to persuade the Johns Hopkins and Princeton Universities and Harvard College to combine and have a table.* I believe it would be a mutual benefit if such could be brought about. The price of a table per annum is 2,000 francs, or £80, a sum which certainly does not exceed the financial powers of American institutions. Miss Nunn told me that she had asked Dr. Scudder and Professor Hyatt to help in this matter.

The zoological station is a purely private enterprise, for which I am alone responsible. Besides the income of the twenty-one tables, it derives annually 30,000 francs from the entrance fees to the aquarium, and 10,000 to 15,000 francs by selling preserved specimens. This would not cover expenses, and therefore Germany gives an annual subscription of 30,000 marks. To justify this expenditure the Imperial Government has asked me to hand in every year a table of my accounts; and I think it may interest you to see one of them, which I inclose.

Some German and other Governments pay also subscriptions towards the publication of our three periodicals. Thus I am enabled to conduct the whole station in a satisfactory way.

At present I am about to add a new part, viz, a laboratory for comparative experimental and chemical physiology. As soon as that is started I shall try to establish more special arrangements for solving questions relating to fishes and all the problems which the sea offers.

NAPOLI STAZIONE ZOOLOGIA,

Naples, February 10, 1883.

* This has since been accomplished.—C. W. S.

Financial statement of the Zoological Station at Naples, Italy, April 1, 1882.

	Receipts.		Disbursements.	
	1880-'81.	1881-'82.	1880-'81.	1881-'82.
Aquarium account.....	\$5,974 40	\$0,272 70	\$882 21	\$1,030 54
Library account.....			758 06	786 93
Export account No. 1 (animals).....	1,266 45	2,252 08	748 13	1,347 78
Export account No. 2 (preparations).....	252 68	802 95	481 07	360 69
Fishery implements and fauna account.....			88 55	217 36
Vessels account.....			1,111 24	546 98
Salary account.....			9,129 00	9,114 56
General expenses account.....	124 48	78 63	1,095 32	1,725 74
Laboratory account.....	106 68	200 93	1,322 13	1,620 29
Machines account.....			1,169 06	1,127 90
Photographic account.....			96 29	179 20
Collections account.....			388 35	94 13
Taxes account.....			415 02	433 68
Subventions account.....	11,753 50	7,560 00		
Animal account.....			1,456 03	1,295 30
Table-rents account.....	6,940 61	7,454 34		
Interest account.....			3,402 56	3,258 29
Amortizations account.....			1,826 90	1,826 90
Publications account.....	2,582 54	2,775 29	2,936 98	2,671 73
Total.....	29,301 84	27,396 92	28,206 90	27,638 00
Deducting publications account.....	2,882 54	2,775 29	2,936 98	2,671 73
	26,419 30	24,621 63	25,269 92	24,966 27

Balance.

	Debit.		Credit.	
	1880-'81.	1881-'82.	1880-'81.	1881-'82.
Zoological Station, cost of station.....	\$90,251 85	\$91,277 62		
Cash on hand.....	184 01	820 05		
Prof. Dr. A. Dohrn, Naples.....			\$60,480 00	\$60,480 00
Architect Profurno, Naples.....			1,200 00	1,200 00
Frau Boutkewitch, Naples.....			1,111 80	1,220 80
Machinist Petersen, Naples.....			615 00	618 00
Otto Beer, Naples.....			16,144 41	9,775 03
Frau Czermack Erben, Leipsic.....			5,219 00	4,500 00
Dr. C. A. Fiedler, Munich.....			4,720 00	4,050 00
Prof. Balfour, Cambridge.....			2,200 00	2,200 00
Werner Siemens, Berlin.....			1,000 00	1,000 00
Amortizations account.....			3,745 15	5,759 80
Publications account.....				1,118 50
Traveling allowance account.....				176 00
	90,435 86	92,097 67	90,435 86	92,097 67
Deficit 1879-'80.....				\$5,598 21
Surplus 1880-'81.....				1,094 44
Deficit 1881.....				4,503 77
Deficit 1881-'82.....				344 64
Deficit 1882.....				4,848 41