

wide circuit of the current from the equator and through the Gulf of Mexico. The climate, though warm, is agreeable in summer and usually keeps between 84° and 86°. The trade winds blow steadily, the waters are clear and the people honest and simple hearted. Biological investigators have already found the life there in summer both interesting and delightful. These healthful conditions are of great importance for northern men when working hard with both mind and body on the edge of the tropics.

While this project centers in Trinity College, shares have been taken by those interested in other institutions and it is in the largest way for the benefit of all investigators who care to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

CHARLES L. EDWARDS.

#### FEDERICO DELPINO.

By the death, at the age of seventy-two, of Professor Federico Delpino, of the University of Naples, modern botany has lost one of its pioneers. For, according to Friedrich Ludwig, a leading authority on the subject, the foundations of plant biology were laid by the publication in 1867 of Delpino's 'Thoughts on Vegetable Biology, on Taxonomy and on the Taxonomic Value of Biological Characters.'

Born at Chiavari, in the province of Genoa, his childhood was largely passed in the garden of his father's house, where he studied closely the habits of ants, bees and wasps and succeeded in discovering the mode in which the great blue-black bee, *Xylocopa violacea*, constructs its nests. His education was the classical one usually given to an Italian boy of that day, and his employment for nearly ten subsequent years was in the routine of the custom house.

About 1864 a friend called Delpino's attention to the account of an English observer of the manner in which a Ligurian orchid was pollinated by *Xylocopa*. Delpino at once replied to his friend that there should be a similar apparatus in the flowers of the Asclepiadaceæ and he hastened to Chiavari to verify this prophecy. Here he quickly found the *Xylocopa* in the act of pollinating the flowers of a magnificent Brazilian asclepiad.

The discovery of the relation between this plant and its insect visitor was a turning point in Delpino's career, for the paper which he promptly published at once put him into relations with the botanical world and marked the beginning of a long series of brilliant researches. Becoming a professional botanist, Delpino taught successively in the universities of Genoa, of Bologna and of Naples.

His predominant interest was always in the relations between plants and animals, but he made valuable researches and thought profoundly on other departments of botany, attacking problems as far away from his chosen subject as phylloxy and plant geography.

As a university professor Delpino was probably more feared than loved by his students. No member of the first class which took the final examination in botany at the University of Naples after Delpino's assumption of the instruction in that department will ever forget the wholesale manner in which the failures were recorded. His manner, too, would impress one who met him for the first time as somewhat ascetic. But an experience of almost ten years, of the unvarying courtesy with which Professor Delpino, in frail health and loaded with researches of his own, would respond to every demand for an opinion leads the writer to remember him as no less typical an Italian gentleman than he was an ideal scholar.

J. Y. BERGEN.

NAPLES,

May 26, 1905.

#### THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

THE twenty-seventh annual meeting of the American Microscopical Society will be held at Cedar Point (Sandusky), Ohio, on July 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1905. The society will be the guest of the Ohio Lake Laboratory under the direction of Professor Herbert Osborn of Ohio State University who has placed at the disposal of the meeting all the facilities of the laboratory and who is planning excursions and collecting trips to demonstrate the rich fauna and flora of this region. The meetings will be held in the laboratory with the exception of the president's address which will be given in Sandusky.