

Villari, Emilio (1836-1904).

PROF. VILLARI of Naples was born in 1836. From his birth, he suffered from epilepsy. Having taken a degree in medicine at Pisa, he served, for a year, as a teacher in a medical school at Naples. He became the Professor of Physics at Pisa, in 1861. In 1864 he went to Berlin for higher studies in the laboratory of Magnus. From 1865 to 1871, he was Professor at Florence and from 1872 to 1889 he taught at Bologna. In the latter year, he became the Head of the Department of Physics at Naples.

X'D AIR.

His chief field of work was in the sphere of radioactivity. His investigations of the properties of "X'd air", *i.e.*, air and gases which have been rendered radioactive by Rontgen rays, are the most noteworthy. He published more than fifty papers in the organs of different learned societies. He was President of the Lincei Academy and an honorary member of the Physical Society of London and of the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

While he was Professor at Naples, his duties involved the conducting of three separate University courses of lectures, in the session of 1902-03. As a result of this, combined with research, he broke down under the stress of work and after a long and painful illness, he died on August 20, 1904.

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Jussieu, Antoine Laurent De
(1748-1836).

A. L. DE JUSSIEU, French systematic botanist, was born on April 12, 1748. He was the fourth of a French family which distinguished itself in botany during successive generations from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth. The first of the line was Antoine, eldest uncle of the subject of this note, and he was born in 1686. The last was Adrien Laurent Henri, the son of Antoine Laurent, and he died in 1853.

Born at Lyons and educated at Paris for the medical profession A. L. De Jussieu, came under the influence of his uncle, Bernard, who possessed a profound knowledge of plants. In 1770, he became demonstrator in botany in the Jardin du Roi. This obliged him to occupy himself incessantly with acquiring a correct practical acquaintance with plants.

HIS CLASSIFICATION.

At that time the collection of plants in the Jardin du Roi was arranged according to the method of Tournefort; but shortly afterwards it became necessary to rearrange it. Of this opportunity Jussieu took advantage; he drew up a memoir upon a new method of arrangement which was read before the Academy of Sciences and afterwards carried into effect in the Garden. It is here that is found the first distinct trace of those clear ideas concerning the relative importance and subordination of characters which the author subsequently applied to the whole vegetable kingdom.

From this time, that is, from 1774 to 1789, Jussieu was constantly occupied in demonstrating to his class of botany, and as his new method was thus brought perpetually before him, with all its advantages and disadvantages, in practice, he was able to alter and improve it from year to year. This continuous ripe experience found its expression eventually in the famous book *Genera plantarum* (1789), which became the basis of modern classification.

HIS MEMOIRS.

In 1793, Jussieu became Professor of Rural Botany and later became Director and Treasurer of the Museum of Natural History. After an interval of political distractions necessitated by the Revolution, he recommenced, in 1802, his botanical writings, chiefly in the form of memoirs upon his own natural orders of plants. These, which were nearly sixty in number, appeared regularly in the *Annales du Museum* till 1820, after which time his failing eyesight prevented further work.

HIS LAST DAYS.

Nevertheless, he employed himself between his eighty-third and eighty-eighth year in dictating a new edition of his *Introduction in historian plantarum*. This work has been published since his death; it is written in elegant Latin and is a remarkable proof of the vigour of his intellect even at this advanced age. He appears to have been much loved by his family and greatly respected by his friends. He died after a short illness on the 15th September 1836, and left behind him a son, Adrien, his successor in the Chair of Botany and the author of *Botanique* which reached nine editions and was translated into many languages.