

OBITUARY.

THE LATE DR. HAGEN.

Hermann August Hagen was born May 30, 1817, at Königsberg, in Prussia. His parents were Carl Heinrich Hagen, Professor of Political Economy, Technology and Agriculture at the University of Königsberg, and Anna Dorothea Linch. His first instruction was received at the gymnasium "Collegium Friedericianum," whence he was transferred in 1830 to the "Kneiphofische Gymnasium." He graduated in 1836, studied medicine at the University of Königsberg and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1840. After the death of his grandfather, Carl Gottfried Hagen, Professor of Natural History in Königsberg, the latter's entomological collection and library came into the possession of the grandson. Under his father's direction he studied entomology in his leisure time, collecting chiefly Odonata, because by chance the first specimen he caught proved to be an undescribed insect of that order. While he became gradually more interested in this particular study, he had the benefit of some instruction from two eminent and still active naturalists, Theodor von Siebold and Carl Ernst von Baer, who called his attention to the necessity of the study of medicine for the naturalist, the knowledge of pathology being indispensable to a comprehension of any normally constituted organism. He attended also for several years the lectures of Professor Rathke, the celebrated embryologist, and accompanied him in 1839 on his scientific journey through Norway, Sweden and Denmark, studying chiefly the anatomy and habits of marine animals. In 1840, he published at Königsberg, as a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, a little work entitled "Synonymia Libellularium Europæorum." From 1840-1 he studied at the University of Berlin and passed, according to the law of Prussia, the necessary examinations as physician and surgeon. He then travelled through the greater part of Europe. In Vienna he attended clinical and medical lectures for six months, and in Paris for nearly a year. The study of natural history was in the meantime always pursued, so far as time and circumstances allowed, and his acquaintance with Baron de Selys-Longchamps, of Liege, made in Paris, 1842, gave rise to a series of entomological publications containing their combined studies of the family of the Odonata. He was favored at this time with the counsel and encouragement of the prominent entomologists, Klug, Erichson, Kollar, Von Siebold, and many others whose personal acquaintance he had made during his travels. He returned to Königsberg in 1843, and settled there as a practising physician. For three years he was first assistant at the surgical hospital, performing the greater part of the operations. In 1851 he was married to Johanna Maria Elise Gerhards. His duties as a physician limiting his studies in natural history to leisure hours, he confined himself to entomology (with especial reference to the Neuroptera), entomological biology, and the study of the microscope. The fear of wasting time in investigating subjects which had already been elucidated induced him to catalogue carefully all accessible entomological publications. This compilation, begun for his own use, was afterwards published as "Bibliotheca Entomologica," in two volumes, Leipzig, 1862. Alone, or jointly with Baron de Selys-Longchamps, he has published in various scientific periodicals a large number of notes, papers and monographs, all of which, up to 1861, are mentioned in his "Bibliotheca." His first publication was made in 1834, on "Prussian Odonata." It was his wish to prepare monographs in all families belonging to the Linnæan Neuroptera, but circumstances did not permit the full execution of this plan. In 1849, 1857 and 1861 he made extended scientific journeys through Germany, Belgium, Holland and England for the sake of comparing collections and libraries. From 1863-67, his official duties as Vice-President of the City Council and Member of the School Board of the City of Königsberg left him no leisure. A large number of reports on a great variety of subjects relating to these duties demanded much careful study. Some of them, as for instance one on "Life Insurance," are exceedingly elaborate treatises. In 1863 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Königsberg.

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