

A BIOLOGICAL STATION IN JAMAICA.

A letter has been received from the Hon. Adam Brown, Dominion Commissioner at the late Jamaica Exhibition, enclosing a copy of the following letter from Lady Blake, which will be read with much interest by the readers of the OTTAWA NATURALIST. The Marine Biological Station at Naples, now under the able direction of its founder, Dr. Dohrn, is the most important in the world, and students attend the course of study from all parts of Europe and America. The following is from *Science* of Sept. 18th, 1891, and will show how highly the work of these stations is valued :

"At present, as we learn from a statement recently made by Professor Sclater in *Nature*, the zoological station at Naples rents continuously about twenty tables, each at \$500 a year. These tables are rented to different States and universities of Europe, as follows : Prussia, 4 ; Baden, 1 ; Bavaria, 1 ; Saxony, 1 ; Hesse, 1 ; Wurtemberg, 1 ; Italy, 7 ; Switzerland, 1 ; Hungary, 1 ; Holland, 1 ; University of Cambridge (England), 1 ; British Association, 1. Besides these twenty-one regular rents, a number of others, varying from eight to sixteen, are made every year to some or all of the following governments : Russia, Belgium, Austria, Spain, and some Italian provincial governments. The average number disposed of in this way is estimated at ten, making the total number thirty-one. The annual income from the tables would thus amount to about \$15,000 a year. The revenue from the sale of preserved specimens amounts to about \$3,500, while the receipts from the admission of visitors to the aquarium amounts to about \$5,000. The whole income is thus approximately \$24,000. But the annual expenditure of the station has now reached \$32,000, so that there is a deficit of from \$8,000 to \$10,000 to meet. This heavy deficit is met every year by a subsidy from the German government.

'This is a good example,' says Professor Sclater, 'of the liberal way in which science is encouraged and supported in the "Fatherland," and is the more noteworthy because the object of its well-bestowed bounty in this instance is localized on foreign soil.'

Indeed, this is a splendid example of the high appreciation in which pure scientific research is held by an enlightened government—an example which we should be glad to see followed in this country."