

which brought out on the occasion a special number in his honour, he made this reply: "Germany has more learned men than I am. They have read more books than I have. But from my earliest youth, when in my fourth year, I plucked flowers and admired butterflies, I have yielded to my heart's inclination and have incessantly studied one great book—Nature. This greatest of all books has taught me to know the true God. As physician, I saw human life in its heights and depths. In my travels through half the globe I learned the inexhaustible splendour of the earth; and with pen and pencil I have honestly striven to reproduce a part of what I saw, and to reveal it to my fellows."

At the beginning of April, 1909, Haeckel retired from his professorship at Jena. The leisure of his remaining days he will spend in writing a history of biology. One of his pupils becomes his successor. His concluding lecture at the university, on the 10th of February last, characteristically ended with these words: "I am firmly convinced that my successor, Prof. Plate, one of my most capable pupils, will not only fill my place but will surpass . . ."

Some of Haeckel's speculative opinions have been warmly controverted during his lifetime, and doubtless will furnish matter for controversy in the days to come. Still, apart from that residuum of error inseparable from human knowledge, time, the great arbiter, bids fair to place on the body of his practical teaching its seal of approval. But, however, that may be, the extent and precision of his knowledge excite astonishment, as his lucid method of imparting that knowledge compels admiration; while his ideal of duty, and his exemplification of that ideal in the deeds of daily life, make it doubtful if any amongst us dare ask to be judged by as high a standard.