

J. G. DE MAN (1850-1930).

By the death of Dr. J. G. de Man which took place at Middelburg, Holland, on January 19th, 1930, zoology has lost a specialist of world-wide reputation in two great groups of the animal kingdom. His published works were devoted, almost entirely, to studies on free-living nematodes and the decapod crustacea.

Johannes Govertus de Man was born at Middelburg, Holland, on May 2nd, 1850, so that at the time of his death he was within a few months of his 80th birthday. He took his Ph.D. degree at the University of Leiden in 1873. The summer months of 1872 were spent at Leipzig in Leuckart's laboratory. In the same year he became first assistant in the National Museum of Natural History at Leiden and in 1875 was promoted to conservator of the museum. Whilst working at Naples in 1876 he became seriously ill with typhoid fever and a further illness in 1883 necessitated his resignation from his position at the museum. He retired to private life and continued his researches for 10 years at Middelburg and from 1893 onwards at Jerseke.

Early in the present century he undertook the study of the decapod crustacea collected by the "Siboga" expedition and this work occupied much of his time for about twenty years. His numerous Helminthological publications were issued over a period of more than 50 years from 1876 onwards. Some are short papers but others are extensive monographs liberally illustrated with excellent drawings. In every case the work is of a high order; the careful descriptions of numerous genera and species of soil, fresh-water and marine forms, revealing accurate and painstaking investigation. His drawings also were always beautifully finished and show anatomical features in considerable detail. His great work "*Die frei in der reinen Erde und im süsßen Wasser lebenden Nematoden*," published in 1884 and re-issued in 1919, will always remain a classic and a standard work of reference.

To judge from his letters de Man must have been of a most amiable disposition, self-effacing and genuinely devoted to a life of scientific investigation. They were excellently written in English and were always most courteous and kindly. He was ever willing to help and to discuss in a friendly manner details about "my beloved nematodes," as he called them in one letter.

On one occasion his supply of reprints of a particular paper, having run out, he copied the relevant portions and sent them to his correspondent along with tracings of his drawings; such a generous act one felt to be characteristic of the man.



He was decorated as Officer of the Order of Cambodia by the President of the French Republic in April, 1901, and by the Queen of Holland with the Star of the Orange, Officer of the Order of Nassau in September, 1923.

The accompanying photograph shows him at about the age of 50 and is a good likeness. The writer is greatly indebted to Miss M. G. A. de Man, sister of the late savant, for most of the foregoing particulars of Dr. de Man's career.—T.G.

HELMINTHOLOGICAL WORKS.

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