

A Caution.

FELLOWS of the Zoological and other scientific societies, museum officials and others, are warned against an individual representing himself as a consumptive and asking for a recommendation to a hospital and temporary help.

The *modus operandi* is to call upon you with a bogus introduction from another fellow of your society or someone known to you, and to mention a few other well-known persons as interested in his case.

The individual is rather tall, thin, of wan appearance, and has a dark moustache. His manner shows some refinement and education, and is also persuasive, as proved by the number of those known to have, unfortunately, been victimised by his false representations.

E. A. S.

Dr. John Peile : A Correction.

OWING to the omission of a comma (which is doubtless due to my faulty and hasty writing) in the article in your last issue on the late Master of Christ's, the personages of Prof. Percy Gardner and the President of Queens' College have been merged into one.

Prof. Percy Gardiner is, of course, the professor of classical archæology at Oxford, and the President of Queens' (which should be spelt with the apostrophe after the "s," it having been founded by two queens) is the physicist, the Rev. T. C. Fitzpatrick, chairman of the board of physics and chemistry at Cambridge.

I need hardly say that the list of those who were at Christ's College under Dr. Peile was confined to those who acquired a position in certain branches of science. An equally strong list could be drawn up of those who have achieved success in other walks of life.

October 14.

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

THE CENTENARY OF BERLIN UNIVERSITY.

A BRIEF account of the first day of the centenary festival at Berlin, and of the notable utterance of the German Emperor at its opening *Festakt*, was given in last week's issue of NATURE. The celebration lasted over three days (October 10-12), with some sporadic entertainments on the fourth. Unter den Linden, from the Brandenburg gate to the royal castle and the cathedral, showed the chief, if not the only, signs that something unusual was in hand. For Berlin, as one of the academic orators remarked, is not a university city; it is a city containing a university. The well-known building itself, with its statues of the Humboldts and Helmholtz, was decked with garlands, and flags fluttered about the opera square and the new *Aula*, which is the old library. Figures in evening dress, or uniform, or quaint university costume, flitted here and there among the city crowds, and students in the caps and colours of their *corps* drove in open carriages along the wide alleys of the central avenue of Berlin. But except when the torchlight procession was in motion, or the Emperor with his guards passed swiftly along, the hurrying population was little stirred, and traffic followed its usual course.

At noon on Monday, October 10, the delegates met at the University to receive instructions. Each was presented with a commemorative bronze medallion bearing the Kaiser's image, and with two massive volumes of the history of the University, and a useful guide to "Berlin in Wissenschaft und Kunst," prepared by Dr. W. Paszkowski. Those of each nation were requested to choose one of their number to speak for them at the presentation of addresses next day. The venerable Lord Strathcona, Chancellor of Aberdeen and of McGill University, Montreal, was acclaimed the representative of the British delegation. One orator was to be appointed to reply at the festival banquet to the toast of the whole of the non-German delegates, and the choice fell upon Dr.

Mahaffy, of Dublin. When the time came, he it said, the versatile Irish scholar played his part in fluent German amid universal applause.

In the evening a solemn thanksgiving was held in the new cathedral. Court-preacher Dryander led the service, which was richly choral, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Kaftan, dean of the theological faculty. His theme was diversity in unity, "many members and one body." On leaving the cathedral, the congregation found the streets lined with soldiers and police, and cheerful crowds awaiting the students' torchlight procession. A large and informal company gathered in the halls and balconies of the University building to welcome the students as they passed in long and well-kept lines, dressed in all the bravery of their *Burschenschaften*. The rector magnificent, Dr. Erich Schmidt, met the students' leaders, who, through their spokesman, Studiosus Heyl, pledged their faith to Alma mater, and raised a thundering cheer for "His Magnificence" and his colleagues. The 3000 members of the procession then dispersed, to spend the night in the time-hallowed ceremonies of the *Kommers*. The professors and their guests promenaded the halls of the University, where a light collation was served in every room. Acquaintances were made and renewed in easy and unceremonious fashion, and a lively conversation was kept going for several hours.

Next morning (October 11), the more formal celebration began at an early hour in the *Neue Aula*, the centenary gift of the Ministry of Education to the University. The guard of the Alexander regiment was drawn up in front. The corridors and staircases and the hall itself were lined with uniformed students carrying swords and banners. Delegates in strange academic robes, nobles, courtiers, and statesmen, in full-dress and gleaming with decorations, filed into their places. By the time that the Emperor and Empress, accompanied by a number of princes, the Imperial Chancellor, and a brilliant Court-party, entered to the sound of trumpets, the hall presented a dazzling display of military and academic pomp. The rector ascended the rostrum and greeted the assembly in a sonorous oration. Objective science with individual culture, he set forth as the aim of the University from its first foundation. The Emperor nimbly mounted in the rector's place, and amid tense silence delivered an energetic discourse, the substance of which was given in last week's NATURE. When he announced his intention to found an imperial association for the foundation and maintenance of institutes for scientific research, with an initial capital of some half-million pounds sterling, the audience broke into long and clamorous applause.

The rector expressed the thanks of the nation in moving words, and called for a *Hoch* for the Emperor, which was given with full-throated enthusiasm, the students clashing their swords and waving their banners in time to the shrill strains of bugles and trumpets.

The Minister of Education, and the Oberbürgermeister Kirchner, next spoke for the governments of state and city, the latter presenting the rector with the deeds of a municipal endowment of 10,000*l.* for the establishment of travelling scholarships for university students. Then followed the presentation of addresses by delegates of home and foreign universities and academies. Those of each nationality came forward in a group, the countries being called up in alphabetical order. The speeches of the respective leaders were supposed to occupy not more than three minutes each, but some at least stretched far beyond that limit. Each delegate as he passed bowed to their Majesties, announced his uni-

versity, handed in his document, and was greeted by the rector. This part of the proceedings went forward quietly, though at intervals applause broke out as well-known personages were recognised. Thus Poincaré, of Paris, Sir J. J. Thomson, of Cambridge, Lord Strathcona, of Montreal, Macan, of Oxford, Mittag-Leffler, of Stockholm, and Hadley, of Yale, were specially cheered.

Thereupon the prorector, Dr. Kahl, read a long list of jubilee gifts and benefactions. They included one of 500*l.* from Frau von Wildenbruch for scholarships, a large but unnamed sum from friends of the University for the foundation of students' hostels or residential colleges, 7500*l.* from Dr. Hans Meyer, of Leipzig, for the endowment of a chair of colonial geography, and a multitude of other donations in money and kind. For all of these grateful acknowledgments were expressed, and then, by the whole assembly, the Emperor leading, the *Gaudeamus igitur* was intoned as a finale. The ceremony had lasted over three hours.

Immediately after the ceremony, it was officially announced that the titles of Excellency and full Privy Councillor had been bestowed upon Prof. Harnack, royal librarian; Prof. Diels, philologist; Prof. Wilamowitz-Möllendorf, classical scholar; Prof. Emil Fischer, chemist; Prof. Brunner, jurist; and that a host of decorations of all grades had been conferred upon other officers of the University. Even the chief janitor or *bedellus* was not forgotten.

At three o'clock a banquet for six hundred was served in the hall of the exhibition park. The feast and the speeches lasted until nearly eight in the evening. Prince Rupert of Bavaria, Prince August William of Prussia, the Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, formerly a Berlin professor, and the Minister of Education, Count von Trott zu Solz, were among the guests. The Chancellor and the Minister spoke for the German Government; the Prorector and Dr. Wilamowitz-Möllendorf for the University and its staff; Rector Hölder, of Leipzig, and Prof. Mahaffy, of Dublin, for the Teutonic and non-Teutonic guests respectively; the President of the Gymnastic Association, "Arminia," for the students. To him Prof. Harnack replied, thanking the undergraduates *utriusque sexus*, and draining the newly presented loving-cup to their welfare. Some ominous headshakings among the professors were observable as the one lady student present, Miss Ilse Tesch, of the faculty of medicine, came up to join in the pledge. The situation was saved by Prince August William, himself a Berlin student, who promptly shook hands with his "Commilitonen" *utriusque sexus*, and solemnly shared the cup with them. The assembly dissolved in laughter and loud applause. Presently the company reassembled at the Royal Theatre, where, in the presence of his Majesty and the Court, a festal performance of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" was given in honour of the University and its guests.

On Wednesday morning, October 12, the new *Aula* was the scene of the second *Festakt*. The Emperor was represented by his son, and the place of the courtiers was taken by the city fathers and other representatives of municipal institutions. But in other respects the gathering resembled that of the preceding day. Prof. Lenz, the historiographer of the University, delivered an eloquent and impassioned address on its origin, evolution, and present position. The ideas of its first sponsors, Fichte, Schleiermacher, and William von Humboldt, had been realised or surpassed. Even in the dark days of the Fatherland, the University had not despaired. Hundreds of its members had given their labours and laid down their lives for the unity of Germany. Based on that unity, now

once for all achieved, the University had risen triumphant to its present glory. Its watchword was "freedom of research"; its guiding conviction that knowledge is the power that conquers.

Then followed the academic ceremony of conferring honorary degrees. In accordance with German custom, the list of graduands had been kept a secret. For days before the newspapers had speculated regarding the recipients, but, except in a few instances, the current guesses appear to have been wide of the mark. The precedence of the faculties in Berlin rests with divinity; it is followed by law, medicine, and philosophy. It was therefore at once surmised that something abnormal was about to happen when the dean of the law faculty came first to the dais. In a few words of German he explained his mission, and then in stately Latin proceeded to create, pronounce, and proclaim the Emperor himself a *doctor utriusque juris, cujus auctoritate juris civilis Germanorum codex post sæculi labores prodiiit*. The announcement brought the assembly to its feet; a loud fanfare, and cheer after cheer, welcomed the new graduate. The dean of the faculty of theology followed, in a formal and courtly protest, waiving his precedence for that occasion only. He, by resolution of the Senate, and with the approval of his Majesty, proclaimed some fifteen or sixteen doctors of divinity. The Burgomaster of Hamburg, a distinguished merchant, and Dr. James Hope Moulton, of Cambridge and Manchester, were among the number. The dean of the law faculty reappeared, and conferred the LL.D. degree on Prince Rupert of Bavaria, Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, of New York, Prof. Vinogradoff, of Oxford, the Burgomaster of Berlin, and a long series of professors and high officials holding office in the German civil service. In medicine, professors of philology, philosophy, and law were promoted, side by side with Poincaré, de Vries, Richards (Harvard), the painter Thoma, the musician Reger, the humorist Raabe, of Brunswick, and the master of ceremonies, Knesebeck. It needed all the dean's ingenuity to relate the functions of the honorary doctors of medicine to those of his faculty.

The list of the philosophical faculty, which includes all the departments not covered by the other three, was of considerable length. Some forty names were read out, and a few words were said on each. Prof. Ashley, of Birmingham, Dr. Arthur Evans, of Oxford, and Dr. Lazarus Fletcher, of the British Museum, represented British learning; and the Presidents of Harvard, Yale, and Columbia were selected for the United States. The Imperial Chancellor and the President of the Reichstag, with many other exalted personages, military and administrative, and one lady, Frau Cosima Wagner, of Bayreuth, were included. It gave rise to some remark that none of the British delegates, though Lord Strathcona, Lord Reay, Sir William Ramsay, Sir J. J. Thomson, and Sir Joseph Larmor were among them, received any academic recognition.

The solemnities of the seniors were thus accomplished. But the junior members of the University had festivities of their own to celebrate. The afternoon was occupied by a popular *Gartenfest* in the exhibition park, where students in the costume of 1810 and earlier, old alumni, professors, citizens, and somewhat bewildered guests, held high carnival. The halls of the exhibition, and the arches of the railway viaduct that spans the grounds, were thronged by thousands of cheerful spectators of the numerous entertainments, organised by the students' committee. As the public were admitted on payment, the crowds made sightseeing difficult, and conversation well-nigh impossible. As the evening fell, the

academic element receded altogether, and the park assumed a bank-holiday aspect.

At night a vast *Kommers* of the entire body of students took place in the Zoological Gardens. There, under the strict regulations which tradition prescribes, the ceremonies of the *Biercommert* were performed for the edification of the initiated and the entertainment of the foreign visitors. But the present writer had to leave by the midnight express, while the ordered revelry was at its height.

The foreign university delegates included Principal G. Adam Smith (Aberdeen), Zeeman (Amsterdam), Sir J. J. Thomson (Cambridge), Mahaffy (Dublin), Sir Donald MacAlister (Glasgow), Chwostow (Kasan), Brögger (Christiania), Sir W. Ramsay (London), Lord Strathcona (Montreal), President Hadley (Yale), President Butler (Columbia, New York), Macan (Oxford), Poincaré (Paris), Grünert (Prag), Blaserna (Rome), Mittag-Leffler (Stockholm), Bernatzik (Vienna), and A. Meyer (Zurich). Among the representatives of foreign academies and societies were Thomsen (Copenhagen), Johannessen (Norway), Lord Reay (British Academy), Sir J. Larmor (Royal Society), Keen (Philadelphia), Montelius (Sweden), Miura (Tokyo), and Böhm-Bawerk (Austria). The German universities and academies were represented for the most part by their rectors or presidents.

TOWN-PLANNING.

TOWN-PLANNING has always had a fascination for the sociological amateur, and the creation of a model town is one of the most pleasing and least harmful of Utopian dreams. Mr. Burns's Town Planning Act is well-intentioned; under the conditions this is enough, for in the evolution of a town the method of trial is inevitable; the problem *solvitur ambulando*. The one thing needful is the guiding idea, the working principle.

The discussions at the Town Planning Conference have been full of interest. There have been felicitous analogies, ingenious suggestions, and brilliant forecasts. But it is a commonplace that the permanent institutions are those which have not been planned, but have grown by a sort of felicitous adaptation, an unconsciously purposive concurrence of atoms. Throughout the conference it was taken for granted that the town of the future will be evolved from the town of the present by small, continuous modifications. Here is a curious analogy to Darwin's view of the evolution of a new species, by the summation of small variations. Again, throughout the conference there has emerged no master-principle, no architectonic impulse, for the guidance of those who will apply the Act. Still less possible was the emergence of any universal and permanent plan.

What is to be our plan, and what our principle for the evolution of the town of the future? Is the ideal town to be a garden city, with factories in the country, or a combination of gardens and factories? Mr. Lanchester has ingeniously explained the "West End" tendency by suggesting that in the evening, when work is over, one's steps naturally turn to the region of the setting sun, and that this quarter therefore is unconsciously chosen as the place of home and relaxation. Or is the ideal town to be an aerial maze of skyscrapers, overhead ways and wires, somewhat as imagined by Mr. Wells? Will this have roof-gardens? Will different forms of traffic be confined to different levels? Or, again, will the city be half underground? Such questions would be futile, were it not necessary that the working plan of the town-planner must allow for all such eventualities.

It is argued by many that plan must precede

structure. As applied to individual units, this is a truism, but it can hardly be applied to a complex growth like a town. It involves the Platonic notion that there is a pre-existing idea of a town. But the idea, that is, the plan, of a town develops with its growth as surely as it originated with its inception. The moral of this is that the plan which every body of town-planners must work upon must be a *dynamic plan*; a moving, shifting, developing, and shrinking, growing and changing plan, the germ of which is to-day's town conditioned by its environment.

There has been, and will be for a time, much useless talk about town-geometry. The straight line and right angle with which street-plans commence, to be varied by curves, other angles, circles, and triangles, according to the circumstances, are fundamental.

Esthetic play with these elements is misguided in the case of streets and areas, no less than in the case of individual houses and blocks. For architectural beauty should be a by-product of adaptation of structure and function. Town-planners need to keep an eye on traditional architecture, which has long lost this essential principle. There is a real danger, in the enthusiasm of a new movement, that the conventional architect may create a body of useless expenditure if allowed to indulge his unscientific ideal of ornament for ornament's sake. He is really more dangerous than the jerry-builder. In the one sphere where he may seem harmless, if not desirable, the designing of public buildings, he is really unnecessary. At the conference, engineers were conspicuous by their absence, but in the town-building of the future the engineer will be the main adviser and collaborator of the builder.

As for a guiding principle in the working of a dynamic plan, there is none, unless we say science. In the town, as in the house, ease of communication, light, air, and sanitation are the essential needs which scientific building has before it. There are no other components of a golden rule. Continuously applied when circumstances permit, these considerations will gradually improve our cities as science advances. One or two details are useful for discussion. It has long been established that urban populations tend to be more intellectual but physically more degenerate than the rural. Yet East End populations, though degenerate in some respects, have developed a high power of resistance to insanitary conditions. Again, there is some evidence that the town populations of Sweden, once a feeble race, have become, through physical training and scientific environments, physically superior to the country populations, and as fine a race as any in Europe. Parks and open spaces will be permanent blessings, supplying a touch of nature for the soul of the town dweller, though we may come to realise that we have over-estimated the value of light, and may some day artificially purify our air. Such suggestions as a great ring-road round London—certainly concentric communication is defective—and the removal of the great railway termini to one small central area, must be balanced by the possibility of the evolution of other methods of locomotion. Some day London may need great open spaces for aeroplane stages.

Town-planning is a continuous process, and its results are in the future, and themselves to be superseded. But there is one sphere, more or less untouched at the conference, which admits of immediate attention. One of the great obstacles to progress is the slowness with which new inventions are brought into the personal environment of the mass of the population. A striking example of this is the average house. But in the case of house-building, which, after all, is the most important function of