

**OBITUARY.**

CARLO EMERY.

On the eleventh of last May the world lost one of its most distinguished entomologists, Professor Carlo Emery, from acute uricaemia. He was born at Naples, October 25, 1848, of Swiss parents, who had acquired Italian citizenship. After pursuing courses in general medicine he decided, about 1872, to specialize in ophthalmology, but biological studies soon attracted him more powerfully and he became professor of zoölogy in the University of Cagliari, in Sardinia. This post he held from 1878 to 1881, but on the death of his father he moved to Bologna, where he occupied the chair of zoölogy in the ancient university till his retirement several years ago. He married an Italian lady and leaves two very promising children, Lucia and Luigi.

Professor Emery was unusually talented. He spoke and wrote admirably Italian, French, German, English and Spanish, besides possessing a reading knowledge of several other languages, including Russian. His great skill as a draftsman enabled him to enrich his monographs with many figures so accurate as to permit ready identification of the most closely related species; and his linguistic knowledge enabled him to pen descriptions so concise that there is very rarely any question as to the identity of the forms he was observing. Although he published a valuable textbook of general zoölogy (second edition, 1904), a well-known monograph on the singular fishes of the genus *Fierasfer* (1880) and papers on the anatomy of vipers (1873) and the luminescence of fire-flies (1884), the 300 papers which he contributed to Entomology during the past 56 years (1869-1925) are almost entirely devoted to the Formicidæ. And although he was chiefly occupied with the taxonomy, morphology and geographical distribution of ants, he published several interesting papers on their habits and instincts. There is scarcely a country to a knowledge of whose ant-fauna he did not make important contributions. His work

throughout is of the highest quality, because he was not interested primarily in securing priority in the description of species—though he described many hundreds of them—but in monographic revision of groups of species or whole faunas and a precise definition of the known forms, their relationships and distribution. He was exceedingly conservative in creating genera and species and made great use of subgenera, subspecies and varieties as provisional categories. His long and intricate taxonomic studies culminated in the magnificent volumes on the Formicidæ in Wytsman's "Genera Insectorum," which contain a list of all the known species, subspecies and varieties of ants and their genera, with many new and profound considerations on their natural grouping in tribes and subfamilies. No entomologist of the past or present generation has done such a large amount of very accurate taxonomic work and work so worthy of being taken as a model by younger men, especially in the United States, and no active entomologist has created fewer synonyms or introduced less confusion into the science.

Although I owe a great deal to Professor Emery, with whom I have corresponded since 1899, and who has helped me on innumerable occasions with his very expert opinion, as he has helped every living myrmecologist, I unfortunately had no opportunity to meet him and have had to draw many of the facts in regard to his life from a brief necrologue by Professor Forel (Bull. Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 65, 1925, p. 198-199). Both of these eminent entomologists were born in the same year and both, building on the secure foundations laid by Gustav Mayr, coöperated in enormously extending and deepening our knowledge of the ant faunas of all parts of the world and in encouraging younger men to take up the study of these fascinating insects. In the following paragraph Professor Forel gives some more intimately personal details in regard to a singular parallelism between his life and that of Professor Emery:

"I made his acquaintance about 1871 at the Chateau de

Prilly, near Lausanne, which his father still owned, though it has since been sold. There we learned that as children we had both observed the ants, he at Prilly and I at Lonay or at Vaux sur Morges, that is separated only by a distance of less than eight kilometers, without suspecting each other's existence or our mutual myrmecological predilections. But the parallelism of our lives did not end there. C. Emery had scarcely been made professor at Cagliari when in 1879 I was elected professor at Zürich. Both of us employed our days and weeks of vacation in studying our little friends, the ants, he in Italy mainly, I sometimes on long voyages. In 1906, while sojourning in Switzerland, at Bois-Bougy sur Rolle, he was suddenly prostrated by a very severe apoplectic stroke. I was called and thought he was lost and my son aided his wife in caring for him under the supervision of a physician at Rolle. But although he was aphasic and remained paralyzed on the right side, he not only learned to write with his left hand, but succeeded a year later in performing experiments on ants, describing and even drawing them (with his left hand) with indomitable perseverance and all his former sagacity. And then I myself, in 1912, was prostrated by an attack which paralyzed my right arm and vocal organs. After that I imitated Emery in all respects, except in my incapacity to draw with my left hand. Since that time our correspondence has been left-handed. In Italy, C. Emery attracted many students who will continue his work. As I learn today, he had ordered before his death that there should be no funeral, no religious intervention, no discourse, no music, no flowers, except those given by his family. It is odd that, without knowing of this, I had long ago made the same arrangements in regard to myself."

WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER.