

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-