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The Open Court

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Devoted to the Science of Religion, the Religion of Science, and the
Extension of the Religious Parliament Idea

Founded by EDWARD C. HEGELER

In Celebration of
Professor Ernst Haeckel's Eightieth Birthday

February 16, 1914



The Open Court Publishing Company

CHICAGO

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Ernst Haeckel.

From a photograph taken October 18, 1913.

Frontispiece to The Open Court.

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HAECKEL'S BIRTHDAY.

BY THE EDITOR.

PROFESSOR ERNST HAECKEL will celebrate his eightieth birthday on February 16, 1914, and a movement has been started to honor the venerable pioneer of monistic thought with tributes and ovations. In anticipation of further plans Professor Haeckel publishes the following open letter to his friends, pupils and followers:

"I have been informed from several quarters that a number of my friends, pupils and followers intend to celebrate my approaching eightieth birthday by donations and other testimonials, about the form and nature of which different proposals have been made. Having been honored repeatedly on former occasions by similar presentations, I beg leave to request that this time all such personal gifts to myself be omitted and that the amounts intended for this purpose be applied to a foundation which I should wish put at the disposal of the German Monistic League. This league founded in the interest of furthering civilization deserves support by greater financial aid on account of the wonderful development it has reached since its foundation seven years ago, and on account of its importance for the attainment of a liberal and rational world-conception, as well as for the practical application of this world-conception toward a higher moral conduct of life.

"The contemplated 'Ernst Haeckel Fund for Monism' is intended permanently to promote this humanizing work on the secure basis of natural science and to furnish the necessary means for the practical performance of its numerous important tasks. To all

friends and all sharing my views who desire to support my long life-work by contributing to this fund I hereby express in advance my most cordial thanks.

"At the first international congress of monists which took place in September 1911 in Hamburg, and which was especially successful because of the large numbers who attended, including a wide representation from foreign countries, the effort was made to extend the German Monistic League into an international society.



HAECKEL ON THE STREETS OF JENA (1907).

This universal monistic league, representing a powerful advance in our cultural tasks by uniting liberal thinkers of all countries, will be the more able practically to verify its importance the more liberally my friends in all parts of the world will share in contributing towards the new foundation."

[Contributions may be made payable to the "Ernst-Haeckel-Schatz für Monismus," and addressed to "Deutsche Bank, Filiale Hamburg, Germany." All inquiries and other correspondence should be ad-

dressed to the "Ernst-Haeckel-Schatz für Monismus, Hamburg 36, Klein Fontenay Nr. 1."]

The present number of *The Open Court* contains Haeckel's own most recent article in which he outlines his position. We further publish a discussion of his work by one of his most ardent supporters, Dr. W. Breitenbach, the editor of the *Neue Weltanschauung*.¹



VIEW FROM HAECKEL'S STUDY WINDOW.

Professor Haeckel's work is continued by Prof. Wilhelm Ostwald, whose prominent position as a scientist and philosopher renders him most fit for leadership.

It will be noticed that Dr. Breitenbach is not in full agreement with the *Monistenbund*, and so far as we know he has not even joined its ranks, but on this day of rejoicing he does not keep aloof

¹ The editor's address is Brackwede i. W., and the publishers of the *Neue Weltanschauung* are Hausbücher-Verlag Hans Schnippel, Berlin-Halensee, Hektorstr. 20.

and raises his voice in the interest of the cause. Professor Haeckel himself stands above the differences of sectarian interpretations of monism. Though the movement may in some details not be quite satisfactory to his ideals, our octogenarian takes a friendly attitude towards all his friends and adherents, hoping that wherever they, or even he himself, may be mistaken their errors will by and by be overcome and their purpose will be more and more matured.

We too have our own conception of monism. We too insist on the significance of certain truths which should be heeded, and we may also now and then have occasion to criticize other monisms. But we have never failed to recognize the historical significance of Professor Haeckel's work and we take this opportunity on his eightieth birthday to congratulate him on what he has accomplished during the long and fruitful career of his scientific work.