

IN MEMORIAM

ADELCHI NEGRI.

BORN 16 JULY, 1876 AT PERUGIA.
DIED 19 FEBRUARY, 1912 AT PAVIA.

(With Portrait, Plate VI.)

It is with great regret that we record the early death of Adelchi Negri, for a career full of promise has been cut short and his loss is one that will be felt far beyond the confines of Italy.

Negri was born in Perugia on the 16th of July, 1876, being the only child of Professor Cav. Raffaele Negri by his wife Emilia née Almici. He pursued his medical studies in Pavia where he became qualified in 1900 being afterwards assistant to Golgi at the Pathological Institute. In 1905 he became *libero docente* in general pathology. On the 16th of September, 1905, he married Signorina Lina Luzzani who shortly before had graduated in medicine in Pavia. In 1908 he was made Professor of Microbiology in the University of Pavia, a position he occupied until his death which took place on the 19th of February, 1912. He left no children. His talented widow and his aged parents, the latter now residing in the Province of Brescia, survive to mourn his loss.

Negri's earlier publications (1899-1902) relate to the structure of the red blood-corpuscles, the origin of blood platelets, the cytology of gland cells in mammalia and the changes undergone by blood elements during coagulation. In these papers he already showed his ability as an original investigator. In 1910 he published a paper upon cell regeneration in parathyroid glands.

It was, however, in 1903 that Negri published his first contribution to the study of rabies, a disease with which his name will always remain associated. To all who are familiar with this disease the "Negri bodies" will be equally familiar, for, dating from his initial

discovery of these bodies the latter have come to be regarded as of prime importance in the diagnosis of rabies. Negri demonstrated successively the constant presence of these bodies in the nervous system of man, rabbits, dogs, and various other animals affected with rabies. From the start he regarded the bodies as parasitic Protozoa, and he subsequently traced out with much patient labour the supposed cycle of development of *Neurorhynchus hydrophobiae* Calkins. He devoted nearly ten years of his life to the study of rabies.

Although his chief contributions related to rabies, he also turned his attention to other subjects. He worked upon bacillary dysentery, and was the first to show that vaccine virus traverses bacterial (Berkefeld) filters.

He, moreover, made important observations upon *Haemoproteus*, and especially upon *Sarcocystis muris* (Blanchard) Labbé. Although he was forestalled by Theobald Smith (1905), who successfully transmitted *S. muris* by feeding healthy mice upon the muscles of infected mice, he went further in that he transmitted the parasite in a similar manner from affected rats to healthy rats and guinea-pigs. He proved thereby that one species of *Sarcocystis* may occur in different species of hosts, an observation which throws grave doubt upon the validity of numerous so-called species of *Sarcocystis* which have been described from different species of animals. Doubts as to the validity of some of these species are, moreover, justified by Negri's finding that *S. muris* differs in its morphology according as it occurs in the rat or guinea-pig. It should be mentioned, in this connection, that Negri's views regarding the cycle of development of this parasite differ from those advanced by other authors, and they appear justified in the light of his painstaking experimental work.

During the last three years of his life Negri took a very active part in the campaign against malaria in Lombardy concerning which he issued two reports.

Negri carried on his work for years with unabated zeal and enthusiasm in spite of increasing infirmity, and he won the regard and admiration of all who knew him. Although the writer had not the privilege of knowing him personally, a correspondence extending over several years confirmed him in the belief that Negri was one of the most obliging of men, and it is with a keen sense of the loss which science has sustained through his premature death that this tribute is offered to his memory.

G. H. F. N.