LINNÆUS AS A ZOOLOGIST

CAROLUS LINNÆUS, later known as Carl von Linné, was born at Roeshult, in the province of Smaland, Sweden, May 13, old style, 1707, and died at Hammerby, near Upsala, on January 10, 1778. His grandfather was a farmer; his father, a clergyman. Young Linnaeus, the future naturalist, was intended by his parents for the ministry, and his early education was conducted with this end in view. At the age of ten, he was sent to the Latin school at Vexio, but after seven years at this school he was found to be so deficient in his scholastic studies that his parents thought of apprenticing him to a shoemaker.

While at Vexio, much of his time was devoted to the study of plants and insects, an inclination apparently favored by his master, who was himself greatly interested in botany. Fortunately young Linnaeus was rescued from his threatened degradation by Dr. John Rothman, a physician of Vexio, who recognized his superior abilities and appreciated his interest in natural history. He took him into his own home, where for a year Linnaeus continued his botanical studies, aided by the advice and library of his patron. At the age of twenty he entered the University of Lund, where he soon found himself without means of support, through the death of his patron and friend, the kind-hearted physician of Vexio. Fortunately he soon won the friendship of Dr. Kilian Stobæus, the pro-

1 Read at the exercises of the New York Academy of Sciences in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus.