

The Bufalini Prize.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

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THE BUFALINI PRIZE.

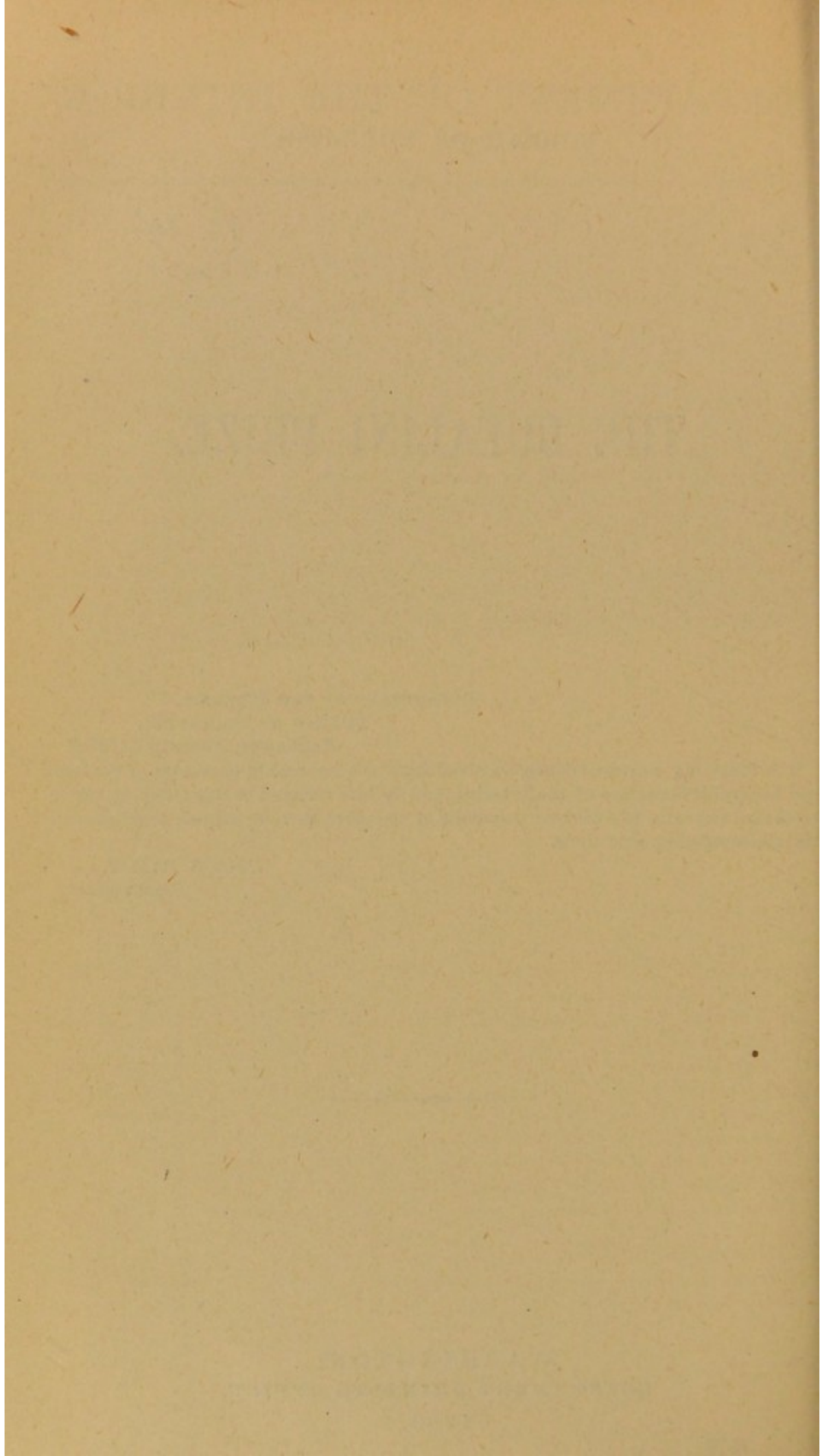
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, November 14, 1883.

The following correspondence, received from the honorable Secretary of State by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, and by him referred to this Office, is hereby published as notice to American scientists of the prize therein offered, together with the accompanying conditions.

JOHN EATON,
Commissioner.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1883.



THE BUFALINI PRIZE.

LEGATION OF ITALY,
New York, July 3, 1883.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE: The Royal Institute of Higher Studies at Florence, by a resolution adopted on the 1st of May last, declared that all persons were at liberty to compete for the prize of 5,000 francs which was offered by the celebrated scientist Maurizio Bufalini to the person presenting the best essay on the subject of the experimental method in science.

In pursuance of the instructions which I have just received from my government, I hasten herewith to transmit to Your Excellency the programme relative to the competition, begging you to be pleased to have it brought to the notice of American scientists, to the end that they may be enabled to compete for the Bufalini prize.

Thanking you in advance for the steps that you will be pleased to take in connection with this matter, I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A. DALLA VALLE,
Chargé d'Affaires of Italy.

His Excellency FREDERICK T. FRELINGHUYSEN,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER PRACTICAL STUDIES AND IMPROVEMENT, AT FLORENCE.

Resolution adopted by the section of medicine and surgery of the Royal Institute for Higher Practical Studies and Improvement, at Florence.

Whereas the will of the illustrious scientist, Maurizio Bufalini, dated September 12, 1874, provided that a legacy should be left to the above named section sufficient to enable it to offer a prize to the author of the best essay on the subject named by the testator, the section has resolved:

- (1) Competition for the Bufalini prize shall be open from this 1st day of May, 1883.
- (2) The time during which essays may be presented shall expire on the 31st day of October, 1884, at 3 o'clock P. M.
- (3) The amount of the prize shall be 5,000 lire.¹
- (4) The chancellor of the section of medicine and surgery of the Institute for Higher Practical Studies and Improvement (whose address is via degli Alfani, No. 35) is officially designated to receive the essays of competitors and to give his receipt for the same.
- (5) The notice, the problem on which essays are to be written, a list of certain works, and the rules relative to the competition, which were laid down by Professor Bufalini in his will, shall be published. They are as follows:

NOTICE.

The constant experience of my long life has fully convinced me of three great truths, viz: (1) That all principles of reasoning called a priori are entirely false, or at any

¹ The lira = 19.3 cents; the value of the prize is therefore \$965.

rate do not lead to the discovery of other knowledge, and that the philosophy called speculative or dogmatic should therefore be regarded as impossible. (2) That only the philosophy called experimental is true, and should alone be adopted. The same is true of the method which is called by the same name. (3) That nevertheless, before my efforts in that direction, this method had not been generalized into a complete system or body of doctrine which would enable it to be more correctly understood, and which would also serve to explain complex causes and the method of reasoning about them.

Being thus persuaded I was compelled to conclude that the sciences had not yet acknowledged the true method, had not yet invariably followed the true mode of reasoning, and had always left the way open to well known and obnoxious ancient errors. From this it appears that the use of the experimental method has always met with serious difficulty, and this I discovered was due to the habit of reasoning with words whose meaning is not sufficiently determinate, as in learning language many words still have to be used which do not stand for sensible and concrete objects; all which has favored the birth and establishment of a mode of reasoning closely resembling the dogmatic.

Let the learned consider therefore whether they can pardon me for daring to appeal to them ten years after my death, and, after that, every twenty years, to solve the following

PROBLEM.

The necessity of the experimental method in arriving at the truth and the relation of all the sciences being assumed, it is required to demonstrate in a first part how far the said method is to be used in every scientific argument, and in a second part to what extent each of the sciences has availed itself thereof during the time that has elapsed since the last competition for a prize,¹ and how they may be brought to a more faithful and complete observance of the method itself.

MAURIZIO BUFALINI.²

List of the works of Maurizio Bufalini in which the subject above referred to is more particularly considered.

Instituzioni di patologia analitica. 6^a edizione di Firenze, 1846.

Prolegomini. Parte I. Edizione del 1863 in Firenze, tipografia Le Monnier.

Prolegomini. Quesiti sul metodo scientifico in appendice alle istituzioni della patologia analitica, tipografia successori Le Monnier, Firenze, 1870.

Schiarimenti sul metodo scientifico e specialmente sull' induzione. Nel giornale *Lo Sperimentale*, Anno XXVI, 1874.

Sommario delle più essenziali ragioni del metodo scientifico. Nella *Nuova Antologia*, Firenze. Marzo 1874.

Agli illustri professori della sezione di medicina e chirurgia dell' Istituto degli Studj Superiori Pratici e di Perfezionamento di Firenze ed altri.—A quelli della chimica e farmacologia insegnanti nell' arcispedale di Santa Maria Nuova—Agli medicina e chirurgia. Maurizio Bufalini, Firenze, 1874, e nello *Sperimentale*, Luglio 1874.

esercenti medicina e chirurgia nell' arcispedale medesimo ed altri.—Agli scolari della

¹The subject named by Professor Bufalini in his will is to be reassigned every twenty years, which is why the distinguished professor refers to "the time that has elapsed since the last competition."

²TEMA.

Posta l'evidenza della necessità di assicurare al solo metodo sperimentale la verità e l'ordine di tutte le scienze, dimostrare in una prima parte, quanto veramente sia da usarsi in ogni scientifico argomentare il metodo suddetto, ed in una seconda parte, quanto le singolari scienze se ne siano prevalso nel tempo trascorso dall' ultimo concorso fino ad ora, e come possano esse ricondursi nella più fedele ed intiera osservanza del metodo medesimo.—MAURIZIO BUFALINI.

RULES.

(1) Each essay shall bear at the top some particular motto, and shall be inclosed in a sealed envelope, on the outside of which the same motto shall be written.

(2) The essay shall be written in Italian or Latin.

(3) The envelope containing the essay shall be accompanied by another sealed envelope bearing the same motto and containing a slip of paper on which shall be written the full name, the titles, and the place of residence of the author of the essay, which is inclosed in the other envelope.

(4) Each of the two parts into which the subject is divided may be treated separately or both may be discussed together, at the pleasure of the writer.

(5) The authors of dissertations relating to both parts of the subject may compete for the whole of the prize; those of dissertations which treat of a single part only, may compete for but one-half of the prize.

(6) No essays shall be accepted that are not neatly written by a single hand or that have corrections or additions the meaning of which is obscure. Corrections or additions or changes made by another hand will not be taken into account.

(7) Essays not considered worthy of the prize shall be returned by the chancellor to their authors, sealed as they were by the examiners.

(8) In case of a tie in the balloting for the award of the prize, the balloting shall not be renewed, but the prize shall be equally divided among the competitors.

(9) The president of the board of examiners, before the conclusion of the session, shall publicly announce the results of the ballots taken, after which he shall announce which essay or essays have been deemed worthy of the prize; he shall then during the same session publicly break the seal of the envelope containing the slip on which are written the name, titles, and place of residence of the author of each of the successful essays, after which the names of the authors shall be made known to the public.

(10) If none of the essays presented shall have been deemed worthy of the prize, the president of the board of examiners shall immediately so inform those present and shall announce that another competition will at once be opened, public notice of which shall afterwards be given. It shall also be announced that the envelopes which have not been unsealed, with their contents, are ready to be returned to their rightful owners.

The chancellor of the section,

VINCENZO PUCCIONI.

The president of the section of medicine and surgery,

Prof. GIORGIO PELLIZZARI.

FLORENCE, *May 1*, 1883.

An authenticated copy of the last will and testament of Prof. Maurizio Bufalini is deposited with the chancellor of the section of medicine and surgery, and may be seen by any one.

N. B.—Directors of Italian scientific, literary, and political journals are respectfully asked to give the widest possible circulation to the present document.



Received of the Treasurer of the State of New York
the sum of One Hundred Dollars for the year 1870

in full for the year 1870

of the sum of One Hundred Dollars for the year 1870

of the sum of One Hundred Dollars for the year 1870

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