

From Besançon he travelled into Italy, through Berne and Zurich, of course visiting at Zurich Conrad Gesner, who kept open house there for all learned men who came into his neighbourhood. Gesner was not only the best naturalist among the scholars of his day, but of all men of that century he was the pattern man of letters. He was faultless in private life, assiduous in study, diligent in maintaining correspondence and good-will with learned men in all countries, hospitable - though his means were small - to every scholar that came into Zurich. Prompt to serve all, he was an editor of other men's volumes, a writer of prefaces for friends, a suggestor to young writers of books on which they might engage themselves, and a great helper to them in the progress of their work. But still, while finding time for services to other men, he could produce as much out of his own study as though he had no part in the life beyond its walls. Cardan therefore records, as we might have expected, that on his way through Zurich he was Gesner's guest.

Henry Morley's 'Jerome Cardan'.