



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt.31

Maria Gräfin von Linden





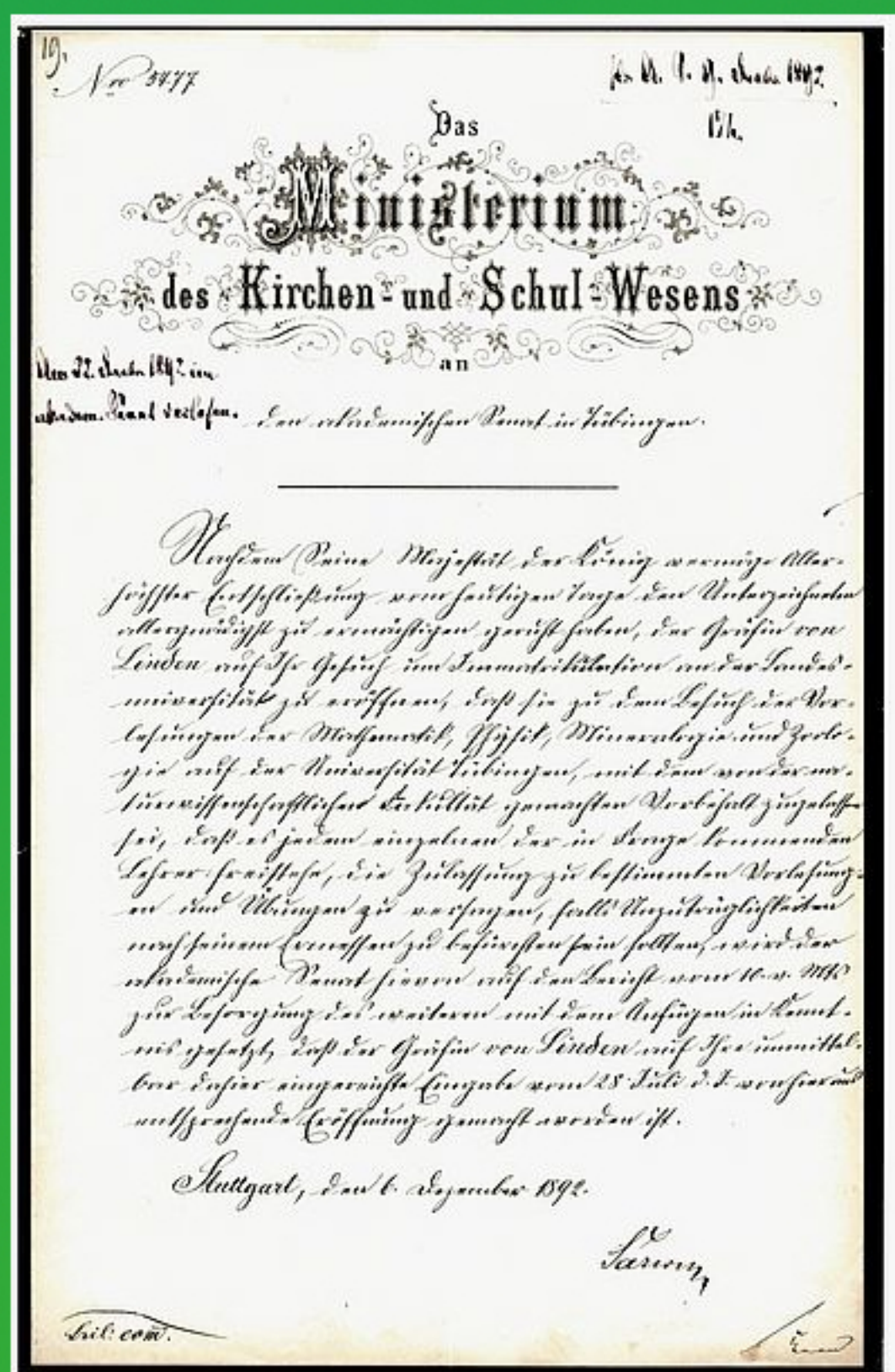
Maria Gräfin von Linden (1869-1936)

Zoologist & Parasitologist

Born at Burgberg Castle near Heidenheim, she was able—thanks to the support of the headmistress of the Victoria Boarding School, an 'educational institution for daughters of educated circles'—to obtain her high school diploma in 1891 at the Stuttgart Realgymnasium, becoming the first woman from



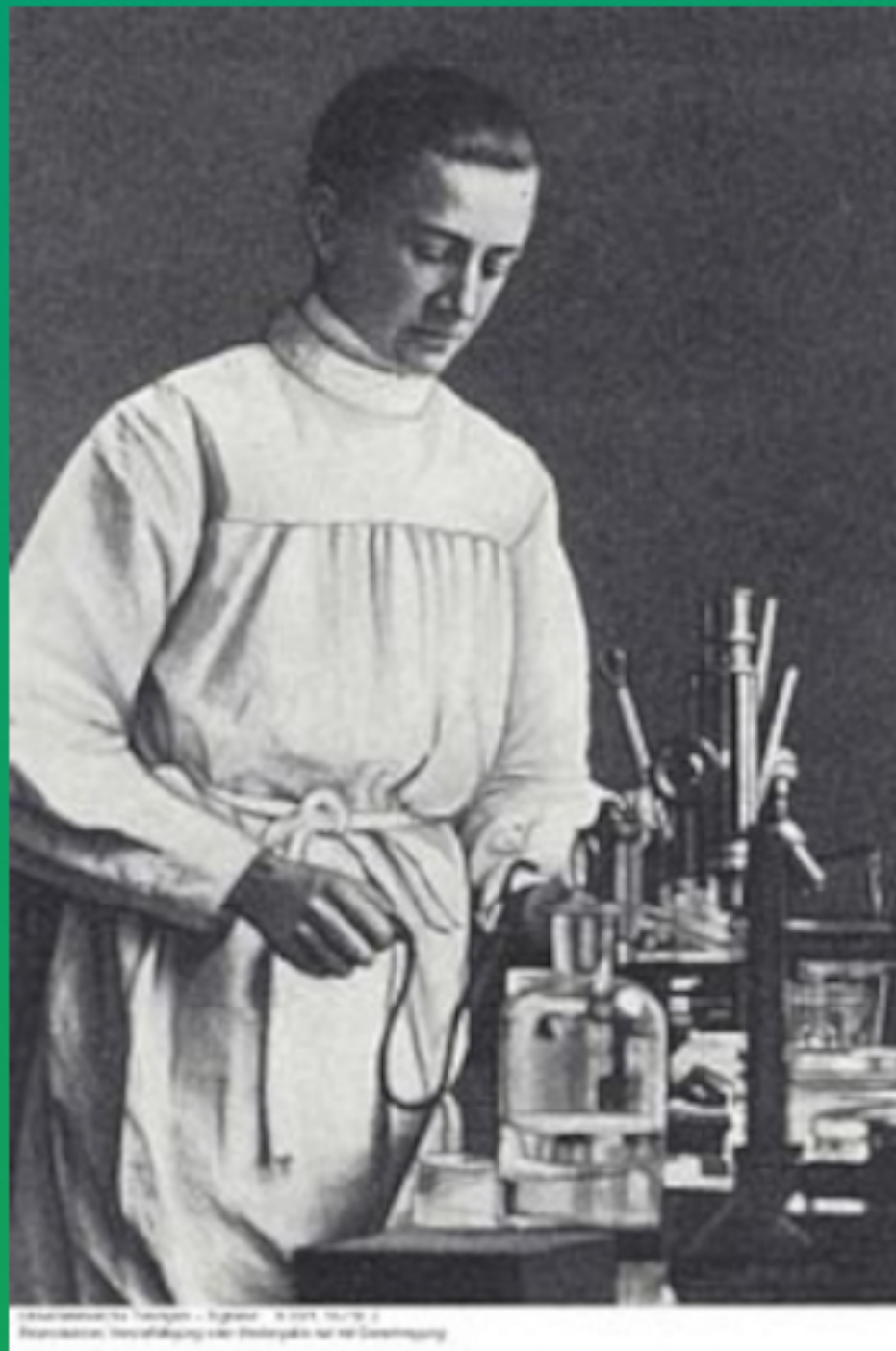
She was admitted to the Abitur examination thanks to the help of her great-uncle, the Württemberg Minister of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as a special permit from King Wilhelm II (see below), which allowed her to begin studying natural sciences at the University of Tübingen in 1892. She thus became the first female student in Württemberg, although she was only granted permission to attend lectures as a guest student and was given the prospect of earning a doctorate if successful. In 1895, she obtained the title of *Scientiae Naturalis Doctor*.



In 1899, she obtained a position at the University of Bonn. From 1908 onward, as head of a department at the Institute of Hygiene, she focused her research primarily on methods to combat tuberculosis. Although she was granted the title of 'Titular Professor,' the Prussian Ministry of Culture denied her the right to habilitate and to teach—both rights that were generally withheld from women at the time.

In 1933, she was forcibly retired due to her opposition to National Socialism (among other things, she supported the Jewish family of Heinrich Hertz).





Ihr Professor:

"Nicht wahr, Gräfin, der Mensch ist aus Dreck geschaffen?"

Maria von Linden:

„Jawohl, Herr Professor, aber nur der Mann.“

Her professor:

"Isn't it true, Countess, that (hu)man was created from dirt?"

Maria von Linden:

"Indeed, Professor —but only the man."

