

SCIENCE:

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The editorial on the American Society of Microscopists has called forth a reply from Professor Hitchcock, who, as editor of the *American Monthly Microscopical Journal*, publicly raised the question of the necessity for the dissolution of the Society. Professor Hitchcock now states that when he spoke of the leaders being incompetent, as a cause of the want of success of the Society, he did not refer to the Presidents who have held office, but to some people, whom he does not name, who were active in the organization of the Society.

We accept this explanation, as it removes an unnecessary personal question from the discussion, although it is not clear why mention should be made of these delinquents now, if the Society has never been in their power.

Other minor reasons may now be dropped, as Professor Hitchcock states that his objection to the Society is fundamental, and does not alone rest on the side issues he described so fully.

In another portion of this issue we publish a statement bearing on this matter, which will appear next month in the *American Naturalist*, an advanced sheet of which has been kindly furnished to us. This is written by Dr. R. H. Ward, of Troy, the first President of the Society. Dr. Ward puts the case in his usual clear and forcible manner, and the simple merits of the case, from a scientific point of view, are stated with precision.

It now appears that nearly half of the delegates, who created the Society, were opposed to its organization as a separate body; a part of these have since formed a "cabal," and like the original inhabitants of the Cave of Abdullah, are restless and discontented, determined on the destruction of the Society, rather than to promote its success.

Dr. Ward authoritatively calls upon the mem-

bers of the Society for unity of purpose and action; he gives excellent reasons for keeping the Society intact and maintaining its independence and freedom; but if the peaceful work of the Society can be continued only by the sacrifice of the opinions of the majority to those of the turbulent minority, then he is willing to let the sacrifice be made. In a word, Dr. Ward says, cease the squabbling and get to work.

We quite endorse Dr. Ward's advice, and are equally indifferent respecting the name of the organization; the reasons he gives for not amalgamating with the A. A. A. S., will carry conviction to those not influenced by personal or petty considerations. Why should the Society cancel its freedom of action, become a mere sub-section of another Society, and be hampered with a set of rules and regulations which are most undesirable, and from which there can be no escape?

We might add that the A. A. A. S. is becoming already overloaded with its sections and sub-sections, and if the work to be done at its meetings increases at the present ratio, the resources of the Society to perform it in a week will be very heavily taxed.

We find no fault with Professor Hitchcock for the article he prepared, as he evidently is but the mouthpiece of many members of the Society, and rather give him credit for his candid utterances. This undercurrent of restlessness is as old as the Society, and it is as well that he has given public expression to it; we, however, trust that he will admit the force of Dr. Ward's reasoning, and as Editor of a *Microscopical Journal*, endeavor to use his influence to restore full harmony to the Society, and remind those who prefer the sub-section of the A. A. A. S. to the American Society of Microscopists, that no impediment exists to the gratification of their wishes; two courses are open to them; they can make use of either of the societies, or even attend both.

THOSE interested in the progress of Physiology in this country will be glad to learn that, at their recent meeting, the Regents of the University of Michigan appointed Dr. Charles H. Stowell Assistant Professor of Physiology in the Department of Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Stowell is a graduate of the Institution, and since 1876, has been in charge of a flourishing laboratory of Practical Physiology and Histology which was then established at the suggestion of the veteran professor of anatomy and physiology, Dr. Corydon L. Ford. Dr. Stowell has also been delivering part of the physiological lectures, and has made some interesting observations and experiments.

B. G. W.