## THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the American Chemical Society was held on Friday evening, December 2nd, with Vice President Leeds in the chair.

After the reports from the various officers were read, the society proceeded to the election of officers to serve during the coming year.

The results were as follows:

*President:* J. W. Mallett.

*Vice Presidents:* A. R. Leeds, W. M. Habirshaw, E. Waller, L. A. Goessman, A. B. Prescott, N. P. Lupton.

*Treasurer:* T. O'C. Sloane.

The remainder of the ticket, as announced in the previous notice, were all elected with the single exception of the treasurer, whose name was substituted by that of Dr. Sloane, whose name on the nominating committee was replaced by that of Mr. A. P. Hallock.

The board of directors will be as follows:

P. Casamajor, Jas. H. Stebbins, Geo. A. Prochazka, H. Endeman, H. Morton, P. de P. Ricketts, T. O'C. Sloane, A. R. Leeds, W. M. Habirshaw, E. Waller, C. F. Chandler, J. B. F. Hernshoff, W. E. Geyer.

The reading of the papers announced for the evening was postponed until the conversazione, which will take place on the evening of the 16th inst.

"J. W. Mallett," says Prof. Silliman, "has for many years been an industrious worker, publishing original researches in chemical subjects, which form important contributions to our science."

Among the very first to work in the then newly isolated element, Tellurium, was Prof. Mallett. Under the direction of the celebrated Woehler these researches were made, and, in recognition of their merit, the university at Gottingen conferred the doctorate on the youthful scientist. Coming to this country, for Prof. Mallett is an Englishman by birth, he located himself at Philadelphia with Mr. J. C. Booth who, at that time, had among his students and assistants T. H. Garrett, the two Morfits, McCulloh and others whose names have since become distinguished.

Later on, in the records of American chemistry, the subject of our sketch was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the University of Alabama, and at present he fills the same position at the University of Virginia; he also lectures in applied chemistry before the students at the Johns Hopkins University. His printed papers are very numerous, most of the earlier ones may be found in *Silliman's Journal*, while those of a more recent date have been published in the *American Chemical Journal*. To this latter periodical he has been a faithful contributor since its commencement, and its columns have been enriched by his very interesting review "Of the Progress of Science Among the Industrial Arts During the Last Ten Years." Prof. Mallett served as one of the judges in Group III at the Centennial Exhibition, and furnished for the governmental reports a very satisfactory resumé of the sugar industry of the United States.

He is a member of the Royal Society of Great Britain, of the Chemical Societies of London, Berlin and Paris, as well as many other learned bodies both at home and abroad. The American Chemical Society have made a wise selection, and it is to be hoped that its new president will resume that desirable custom of presidential addresses, which unfortunately has been omitted during the past few years. M. B.

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COMMANDER CHEYNE has started on his trip to Canada, and will return to New York about the 20th of January; in the interval Mr. Henry Walton Grinnell, who has consented to become Secretary of the committee to be formed to promote this expedition, will attend to matters requiring early attention.

## THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Dec. 5. 1881.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING.

The President Dr. J. S. NEWBERRY, in the Chair.

Twenty six persons present.

Dr. NEWBERRY exhibited an ancient perforated stone axe from Europe, consisting of dioryte, and remarked that the aboriginal tribes of America never attained to the degree of skill required in the perforation of stone implements for the insertion of wooden handles.

The following paper was read by Dr. ALEXIS A. JULIEN.

### THE VOLCANIC TUFFS OF CHALLIS, IDAHO, AND OTHER WESTERN LOCALITIES.

(*Abstract*).

In a paper recently read before the Academy it was shown that a certain compact white almost structureless rock, often porcellanous in texture, occuring abundantly in the Western Territories and variously styled "trachyte," "rhyolyte," "porphyry," etc., (*e. g.*, at Leadville, Colorado, in the Black Hills of Dakota, etc.), is a sedimentary form of a highly silicious volcanic tuff, probably derived from the finest detritus of trachytes, rhyolytes, and quartz-porphyries. A series of specimens collected by Prof. NEWBERRY, during the last and previous summers, and kindly put in the author's hands for lithological examination, has furnished the material for the following additional notes on this interesting but neglected group of widespread American rocks.

1. *Coarse pumice-tuff of Challis, Idaho.*

The rock is quite compact, chistose, of a gray color with dull white spots. The latter consists of pumice in finely fibrous grains, from 1 to 5 mm. in length. Quartz and feldspar are seen in small angular flakes, sometimes reaching 0.5 mm. in length: hornblende commonly in fibrous black fragments, about 1 mm. in diameter: and much biotite, brownish-green, sometimes brownish-black, with greasy lustre, in hexagonal scales, often up to 2 to 3 mm. in size.

The thin sections present under the microscope numerous grains, generally angular, of several minerals, varying in size up to 3 or 4 mm.: pumice in rounded to sub-angular fawn-colored fragments lying at all angles, commonly made up of straight or curved fibres, and often including glass lenses filled with crystallites: a trichinic feldspar, in clear grains, sometimes including minute globules of glass, and possessing fine lamellation, beautifully striated in polarized light, the remaining traces of crystalline outlines indicating that these grains are all of fragmentary, never of indigenous formation: quartz, in water-clear angular grains, 0.2 to 1. 6mm. long, retaining more frequent and perfect traces of their crystalline forms, their sides being often very ragged, curiously and deeply eroded into rounded indentations, while within occur numerous inclusions of the ground mass and of scales of biotite, long greenish needles of hornblende, and sub-angular drops of a brownish-violet glass with one or several fixed bubbles of gas: biotite in abundant irregular scales, 0.2 to 1.3 mm. long, brown inclining to maroon or brownish-yellow, cloudy to opaque, with some dichroism remaining in the striated sections; hornblende in brownish-green, strongly dichroic, fibrous crystalline flakes: opacite, probably magnetite, and ferrite or iron-oxide, in dusty particles or groups in the biotite scales and among the pumice fibres. The fine groundmass is mainly composed of minute fragments, fibres, scales, etc., of all these minerals: also in large part of solid globules of fawn-colored glass, or of thin and apparently hollow shells, or of fragments of quartz or feldspar coated with a glass crust. Many of