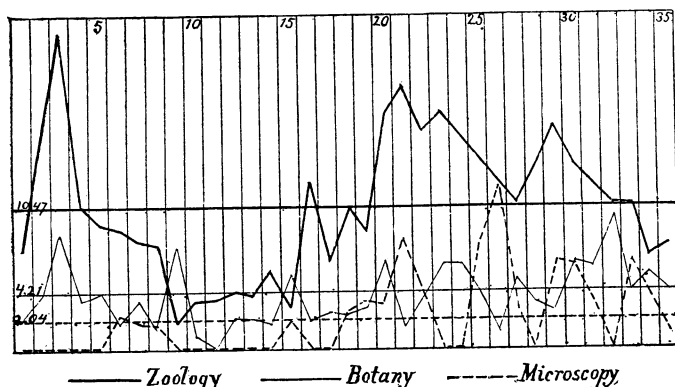


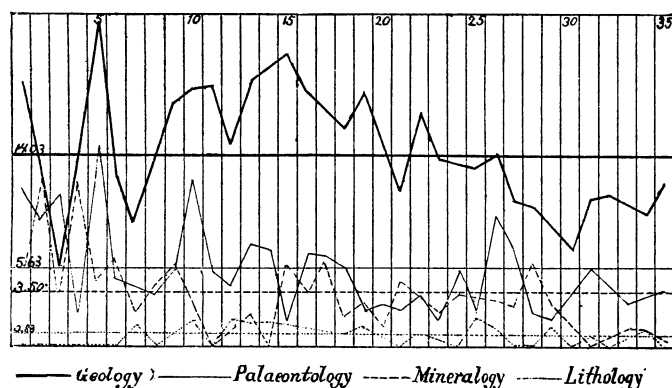
by eight papers in a total of thirty-four, but the relative interest declined after this to a low ebb for eight or nine meetings.

Botany has not been a feature in the association until recently, and its record shows a simultaneous increase in interest. It has not oscillated widely above or below the average, and has been maintained by a band of writers who, while they permitted it to reach extinction in the 11th (Montreal) meeting, have vigorously kept up its respectability. The new and younger botanists have made themselves felt, and it may be anticipated that in the next decade its percentage will rise.



Microscopy has only in later years assumed any importance in the meetings of the association, and in the United States it is only in later years that the use of the microscope has been widely extended. Industrially, technically, in biological and botanical studies, it is beginning to make itself recognized as the handmaid of business and science. Microscopy is yet fitful and timid in its appearances at the association, but these erratic fluctuations probably precede a more even participation in its work.

Geology shows the highest percentage of interest (14.03), as might have been expected, amongst the departments. The association itself was the child of a geological club; and geology in a new country, abounding in new details, new material, new problems, apart from its intrinsic value and fascination, attracts numerous followers. Abundance of papers on this subject have always been forthcoming, in this arena met the veterans of the science, and here the everlasting quarrel over 'taconic' and 'primordial' has been fought over again and again, with the confusion of less noticeable collisions and the combat of less distinguished warriors. One thing of interest is observable; i.e., that geology is losing its hold: as with astronomy and other subjects, the growth of new departments, the increase of papers in other branches, is forcing its average down, though the actual numerical display of papers is higher.



Palaeontology has a fair percentage of interest, has been quite uniform, but evincing a downward inclination, caused, as with other topics, by the enlarging horizon of the society's activities.

Mineralogy has an intermittent and rather low pulse, but from the 15th (Buffalo) to the 28th (Saratoga) meetings was in a rather healthy state, and has since kept below the average. Its average, indeed, has been sustained by the high percentages given in the earlier meetings, and its general temper is debilitated.

Lithology has barely an existence in the association. The subject is new, its students few and scattered, and much of its material absorbed in papers which are properly geological. Lithology will undoubtedly enter more largely into public scientific discussion in the future.



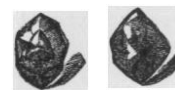
Ethnology and archaeology have been the elements of disturbance which have intruded numbers of papers in recent years, and brought down the percentage of interest in other branches not sufficiently recruited by new accessions. The significant coincidence in the general aspect of these two branches of study shows their important development in the last ten years. They threaten the supremacy of the older studies, both because of their popular character, the interesting nature of their results, and the fertile soil for anthropological investigation in our country.

And here we are suggestively reminded that a valuable analysis of the association returns might be made to determine in what quarters the scientific industry of the country is located. Finally, we offer these observations, imperfectly and too hastily prepared, as a contribution to the interest this meeting of the association should excite.

L. P. GRATACAP.

A North Carolina Diamond.

A DIAMOND weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ carats and 873 milligrams was found on the Alfred Bright farm in Dysartville, McDowell County, N.C., in the summer of 1886, by twelve-year-old Willie Christie, the son of Grayson Christie, who was sitting on a box at a spring, and saw, about two feet from him, what he termed 'a pretty trick.' He picked it up and carried it home, where it lay on the shelf two weeks before he gave it another thought. It was then taken to the village grocer's, John Laughridge's, where various opinions were passed upon it, until at last the conclusion that it was a diamond was reached. It was then sent to Messrs. Tiffany & Co. for valuation. It is quite perfect, but not pure white, having a faint grayish-yellow tint. In form it is a distorted hexoctahedron with partial



twinning (see figures of two views). Its specific gravity is $3.549+$, and it measures 10 millimetres in length and 7 millimetres in width.

This stone being more than an average find, the writer thought it would be of interest to visit the locality, and while there in June, 1887, he fully authenticated all the facts of the finding. Dysartville is sixteen and one-half miles from Morganton, twelve from Marion, eight from Bridgewater, and four from Capt. J. C. Mills's gold-mine. A number of supposed diamonds, which proved to be zircon or smoky quartz, have been found here before. No trace of garnet, peridotite, or any of the associations of the diamond, were found near the spot. The sediment at the bed of the spring was taken out and carefully examined, as also the small hollows on the adjacent hillside. This diamond must therefore have been transported in decomposing soil from distant higher ground in the vicinity, during a heavy freshet. Its value as a gem, not counting any value its American origin may attach to it, would be from about one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars.

GEORGE F. KUNZ.

New York, Sept. 27.