

Discussion by Drs. De Rey-Pailhade and Arthus.

Prof. W. Einthoven (Leyden) showed photographs of the regular excursions of a capillary electrometer produced by a tuning fork giving as many as 1,000 vibrations per second. The results obtained on the other hand with Appunn's steel lamellæ were so irregular that these are apparently unsuitable for investigation of the deepest perceptible tones.

Prof. C. Sherrington (Liverpool) and Dr. F. Mott (London) showed two monkeys. One of these had had the posterior nerve roots, with the exception of the 8th cervical nerve, divided down to the 2nd dorsal nerve, with no resulting sensory or motor disturbance. The other monkey had, in addition, the posterior roots of the 8th cervical nerve divided, and showed motor as well as sensory disturbances. It was demonstrated to the Congress that these disturbances were not due to injury of the pyramidal track for stimulation of the cerebral motor area caused movements of the fore limb.

Prof. J. B. Haycraft (Cardiff) described the change of shape of the heart in systole. It was very difficult to produce post-mortem systolic contraction of the heart, but this could be done by injection of mercuric chloride. The results obtained confirmed those of Ludwig and Hesse.

Prof. F. Gotch (Oxford) described the results of his investigations of the nature of the discharge of *Malapterurus Electricus* in response to mechanical and electrical excitation with the help of galvanometer and rheotome, of rheoscopic nerve-muscle preparation, and of capillary electrometer provided with shunt or condenser. Each discharge consists of three or four single shocks following one another at intervals of .004-.005 seconds, each of which has a duration of .002 seconds and an electromotive force of 120-200 volts. The succession of shocks is probably due to each shock stimulating the

organ producing it to the production of a fresh one, and can be demonstrated with the organ isolated from the body.

Discussion by Dr. Boruttau and Prof. Rosenthal.

(*To be concluded.*)

#### AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Thirteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Washington, Monday evening, November 11th. The business meeting was held at the residence of Dr. C. Hart Merriam. The public sessions, lasting three days, were held in the Lecture Hall of the U. S. National Museum, commencing Tuesday, November 12th.

William Brewster, Cambridge, Mass., was elected President; Dr. C. Hart Merriam and Mr. Robert Ridgway, of Washington, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, of Portland, Conn., Secretary; Wm. Dutcher, of New York City, Treasurer; Dr. J. A. Allen, Maj. C. E. Bendire, Frank M. Chapman, C. F. Batchelder, Dr. Elliott Coues, D. G. Elliot and Dr. A. K. Fisher, members of the Council. One active, one honorary, two corresponding and eighty-eight associate members were elected.

A communication was received from Dr. Ch. Wardell Stiles, delegate from the United States to the International Zoölogical Congress, requesting the Union to appoint a representative as a member of an Advisory Committee to which will be submitted all questions of nomenclature likely to be ruled on by the International Zoölogical Congress, to be held in England in 1898. Dr. J. A. Allen was so appointed.

The Committee on 'Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds' reported the new edition of the Check-List as practically finished; it will be published in a few weeks.

In behalf of the Committee on 'Protection of North American Birds,' Mr. Wm. Dutcher stated that the same precautions

had been taken in 1895 as in 1894 regarding the protection of terns on Great Gull Island, New York. A game warden had been employed, several of the natural history societies in New York City contributing toward the payment of his salary. Absolutely no shooting had been done and parties who visited the island during the past year were prevented from collecting eggs.

Mr. Brewster said that the terns on Muskeget Island, Massachusetts, were steadily increasing in numbers, the result of protection. No birds had been shot on or near the island the past year. A notable increase was seen also in the colony of Laughing Gulls at the same place. Great credit is due Mr. Geo. H. Mackay for his continuous efforts in saving the gulls and terns on this island from destruction.

Mr. Witmer Stone knew of only one colony of terns on the New Jersey coast. As these birds nested back in the meadows and away from the coast, it was difficult to protect them. In recent years the 'egggers' had destroyed immense numbers of the eggs of the clapper rail which nested in favorable localities along the coast of New Jersey. This rail had increased the past season, as game wardens had watched the meadows and arrested several marauders.

Mr. Leverett M. Loomis remarked upon the wholesale destruction of birds and their eggs on the California coast during 1895.

Dr. Elliott Coues exhibited and explained a collection of unpublished water-color paintings of birds by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The artist is a student at Cornell University and his work shows marked talent.

Tuesday evening, November 12, a special public memorial meeting was held in the lecture hall of the National Museum in commemoration of the two distinguished honorary members of the Union who have died the past year. The late Geo. N. Lawrence was eulogized by Mr. D. G. Elliot and Prof. Thos. H. Huxley by Dr. Elliott Coues.

The following is a list of the papers read at the sessions:

*An Important Factor in the Study of Western Bird Life:* CARL F. BAKER.

*On Pallas' Cormorant:* F. A. LUCAS.

*Further Remarks on the Subgenus Quiscalus:* FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

*On Gütke's Heligoland:* GEO. H. MACKAY.

*Food of the Meadow Lark:* F. E. L. BEAL.

*Methods in Economic Ornithology with special reference to the Catbird:* S. D. JUDD.

*Notes on the Birds of Idaho:* M. J. ELROD.

*The Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator) in Captivity:* O. W. KNIGHT.

*Midwinter Migration Southward in the North Temperate Zone to Breeding Grounds:* LEVERETT M. LOOMIS.

*Why are there so few Bluebirds?* MRS. L. M. STEPHENSON.

*On the Standing of Ardetta neoxena:* FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

*What Constitutes Publication?* J. A. ALLEN.

*The Value of the Tongue in the Classification of Birds:* F. A. LUCAS.

*Introduced Birds:* T. S. PALMER.

*A Critique on Trinomial Inconsistencies:* WILLIAM PALMER.

*The First Plumage of the Philadelphia Vireo (Vireophiladelphicus):* JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.

*The Terns of Muskeget Island, Part II.:* GEO. H. MACKAY.

*A Few Effects of the Winter of 1895 upon the Spring and Fall Migration in Canton, Mass.:* J. H. BOWLES.

*Kingbird and Sapsuckers of Southern California:* A. J. COOK.

Mr. Wm. Palmer gave an exhibition of lantern slides of birds, explanations being made by Messrs. Brewster, Palmer and Chapman.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., beginning November 9, 1896.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
Secretary.