14th. The reports of the officers and committees exhibited the most flourishing condition in the history of the Club. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Hon. Addison Brown; Vice-Presidents, T. F. Allen, M. D., and L. H. Lighthipe; Recording Secretary, Henry H. Rusby, M. D., College of Pharmacy, New York City; Corresponding Secretary, John K. Small, Columbia College, New York City; Treasurer, Henry Ogden, 11 Pine Street, New York City; Editor, N. L. Britton, Ph. D., Columbia College, New York City; Associate Editors, Emily L. Gregory, Ph. D., Anna Murray Vail, Arthur Hollick, Ph. B., Byron D. Halsted, Sc. D., A. A. Heller; Curator, Helen M. Ingersoll; Librarian, Wm. E. Wheelock, M. D.

The scientific paper of the evening, by Miss Alice M. Isaacs and Miss Marian Satterlee, and read by Miss Isaacs, was on the 'Anatomy of the Leaf of Solidago Pauciflosculosa.' The study had been suggested by Prof. Britton in order to throw light upon the generic position of the plant, a subject involved in some doubt.

The leaf was compared with that of the typical dicotyledonous plant and with other members of the genus Solidago. The points of difference noted are as follows: 1st, an unusual surface whose punctate appearance is caused by an irregular development of the parenchymatous tissue; 2d, the absence of palisade tissue characteristic of a dicotyledonous leaf. The depressions in the surface are found to be caused by the fact that the leaf is contracted just above and below the bundles, scarcely any mesophyll being found between the bundles and the epidermis. The blade expands between the bundles, and in these expanded parts the mesophyll is found. The epidermis following the outline of the leaf may be cut off in small patches instead of in a continuous piece as is usually the case.

Of the many species examined, Solidago sempervirens was the only one that at all resembled S. pauciflosculosa. The fact that S. pauciflosculosa is a shrubby plant, together with these leaf peculiarities, seem almost sufficient to justify Nuttall in classing this plant as a separate genus Chrysoma.

H. H. Rusby,
Recording Secretary.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

At the meeting of January 20, 1896, 23 persons present, Mr. C. H. Thompson exhibited specimens of a number of Lemnaceæ, and gave in detail the results of some recent studies which he had made on Wolffia gladiata, var. Floridana, from the sluggish streams of southeastern Missouri, and Wolffia lingulata, which he had collected in Kern county, California, last autumn. Both species belong to the subgenus Wolffiella, of which flowers and fruit are quite unknown. The species found in southern Missouri occurs associated with Leitneria and other distinctively Floridan forms, of which it is one, while the species collected in California seems to have been known heretofore only from central Mexico.

Prof. E. A. Engler, in continuation of his remarks at the last meeting, spoke of certain properties of the parabola, from which it resulted that from any point on the convex side of the evolute of a parabola three normals can be drawn to the latter; from any point on the evolute, two; and from any point on the concave side of the evolute, one. Suggestion was made of the probable bearing of this demonstration on other curves.

Dr. A. C. Bernays exhibited a slide of the epidermis of Fritillaria, exhibiting karyokinetic patterns.

William Trelease,
Recording Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Die Chemie in Taglichen Leben. Dr. Lassar Cohn. Hamburg & Leipzig, Leopold Voss. 1896. Pp. vii.+258. M. 4.

Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers. Bertram Blount and A. T. Bloxam. London, Charles Griffin & Co.; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co. 1896. $3.50.

Chemical Experiments. R. P. Williams. Boston and London, Ginn & Co. 1895. Pp. x. +102.

Die Spectralanalyse. John Landauer. Braunschweig. Friedrich Vieweg & Sohn. 1896. Pp. 174.

The Child and Childhood in Folk Thought. Alexander Francis Chamberlain. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. x.+464. $3.00.