chloride, carbonate and oxide of lead with water and a trace of organic matter. Surrounding the alley were stables, and in the salts found in the soil produced by the excreta were all the necessary materials and conditions for effecting chemical corrosion *per se* without resorting to any electolytic theory. In the discussion of the paper Dr. Wiley said he thought there might have been a denitrifying process. Prof. Munroe said there had been no submergence of the cable, but that there must have been water passing through the conduit.

A. C. Peale,
Secretary.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY 25.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication: 'The Coloring Matter of the Aril of Celastrus scandens,' by Ida A. Keller; 'The Crystallization of Molybdenite,' by Amos P. Brown. The Anthropological Section having precedence, Dr. D. G. Brinton made a communication on the use of the craniofacial line in determining racial and individual characters on the living subject. The relation of the diameters of the cranium, formerly relied on, had been found unsatisfactory. He specially recommended a line closely resembling that suggested by the sculptor, Charles Rochet. It connects the two auditory foramina, forming a slight curve, the superior border of which connects the internal commissures of the eyes. This line, it is claimed, divides the ideal, normal head into two perfectly equal parts, although in nature, of course, this proportion is not maintained, but varies as a racial character and in individuals. The relations of the lines may also indicate the cranial capacity, as the plane of the curve continued posteriorly is approximately the base of the skull. He farther pointed out that the distance between the distal extremities of the curve gives the width of the head and the face, and that a series of curves, described from the fixed points indicated, offers probably the simplest and most accurate method of obtaining significant head-measures on the living subject.

Dr. Harrison Allen commented on the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory cranial measurements and referred to Oldfield Thomas's lines taken from the outer margin of the orbits to determine the projection of the nose. He did not think the true horizontal plane of the skull could be fixed. The so-called Frankfurt plane is the one most commonly accepted.

Dr. Seneca Egbert stated that he had demonstrated the action of the X-rays through plates of platinum from ordinary sun light. Illustrative pictures were exhibited, and the published results of other experiments were discussed.

Prof. Maxwell Sommerville exhibited beautiful specimens of chipped arrow-heads made from common green bottle glass by the natives of northwestern Australia. He also called attention to a stone carved to resemble a miniature grotesque head from the valley of the Delaware opposite Milford, and an object used in phallic worship by the natives of Poonah, India.

Dr. D. G. Brinton called attention to the importance of obtaining systematic data for the study of American anthropology and suggested the wide distribution, under the auspices of the Anthropological Section of the Academy, of circulars of inquiry similar to those in use by the committee appointed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the study of the ethnography of Great Britain.

Edw. J. Nolan,
Recording Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Atlas of Nerve Cells. M. Allen Starr. New York and London, Columbia College Press, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. x+78 & 51 plates. $10.

Text-Books of General Pathology and Pathological Anatomy. Richard Thoma. Translated by Alexander Bruce. London, Adams and Charles Black. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. xiv+624. $7.00

Electric Wiring. Russell Robb. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. 183. $2.50.

Résultats des examen de dix mulle observations de hernies. Paul Berger. Paris, Alcan. 1896. Pp. 206.

Annuaire de l'Observatoire Royal de Belgique. F. Folie. Bruxelles. 1896. Pp. 551.