

was descriptive of certain plates which were exhibited appearing to indicate a magnetic action on photographic plates. These are called magnetographs and were made by placing various objects directly on the photographic film and suspending a magnet in front of them. No satisfactory explanation or theory of the results has been given. Fifth note: In conclusion, Mr. Leviston pointed out certain causes which, in his opinion, might account for the deterioration of photographic plates, suggesting among other things X-rays from unexpected sources, terrestrial magnetism, plant or fungus organisms, and gases, such as sulphuretted hydrogen, penetrating the boxes and injuring the plates. He suggested that the test should be made by enclosing the plates in soldered metal boxes. These notes were discussed by Profs. Mayer, Hallock, Van Nardroff, and others.

By permission of the Section Mr. C. C. Trowbridge read a paper entitled 'The Use of the Hair Hygrometer,' which will be published in this JOURNAL.

W. HALLOCK,
Secretary of Section.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 14.

IN connection with the presentation of a collection of recent and fossil Strombidæ Mr. H. A. Pilsbry discussed the ancestry of Strombus Costata and Melongena subcoronata, their relations, fossil species being illustrated by large suites of intermediate forms.

Mr. Jos. Willcox commented on the influence of environment on the species as illustrated by specimens presented. It was apparent that those from the southern coasts of Florida swept by the Gulf Stream were all of a dwarfed type.

Mr. Benj. Sharp related the plentiful occurrence of a tetenophore, *Mneopsis Ludyi* in a fresh water pond near Nantucket. The embryos had been swept in by an accession of salt water and had accustomed themselves to their new environment. The species did not, however, persist in the pond in consequence probably of the severity of the winter. Specimens of the species referred to were beautifully preserved in a two per cent. solution of formaline.

Mr. Pilsbry announced the finding, by Mr.

Chas. Johnson, for the first time, in the Eocene of Texas, of a representative of the genus *scalpillum*. It is a new species for which the name *Chamberlaini* was proposed, in recognition of the services of the Rev. Dr. L. T. Chamberlain to paleontological science.

EDW. J. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CLUB,
APRIL 3.

DR. MARCY in chair. Prof. G. W. Hough presented the topic, 'Instruments for Recording the Time of Astronomical Observations.' He described various steps in the use of electric clock signals and the methods of mechanical record of such signals. After explaining a number of contrivances for securing uniform circular motion he described his printing chronograph, which prints with type the minutes, seconds, and hundredths of seconds of the time of the observation. The instrument has been in use since 1871, is easily kept in order, and has a great advantage over the recording chronograph in saving labor in meridian observations.

In the discussion Prof. Crew described devices used in securing uniform circular motion for chronographs at Johns Hopkins and at Lick Observatory.

A. R. CROOK,
Secretary.

EVANSTON, ILL.

NEW BOOKS.

Electric Lighting. Volume I. *The Generating Plant*: FRANCIS B. CROCKER. New York, D. Van Nostrand Co.; London, E. and F. N. Spon. 1896. Pp. viii+444.

Mathematical Papers read at the International Mathematical Congress. Edited by E. HASTINGS MOORE, OSKAR BOLZA, HEINRICH MASCHKE, HENRY S. WHITE. New York, Macmillan & Co., for the American Mathematical Society. 1896. Pp. xvi+411. \$4.00.

Wages and Capital. F. W. TAUSSIG. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1896. Pp. xviii+325.

Ruhmkorff Induction-Coils. H. S. MORRIE. New York, Spon and Chamberlain. 1896. Pp. xviii+183.