

most defective; in the Blacks the female has the most defective eye and the male the most defective ear. The result of Mr. Stetson's memory test of the same number is reserved for another paper.

A paper by Surgeon-General Geo. M. Sternberg was read, entitled 'Science and Pseudoscience in Medicine,' in which he noted the difference between the truly scientific investigations, with special reference to preventive medicine, in contagious and infectious diseases, and the great service such investigations had been in stamping out epidemics such as cholera, yellow fever, etc., and the so-called science of pretenders and frauds for the sake of gain. He then dwelt at some length on the arrant quackery, charlatanism and fraud practiced by the promoters of numerous well advertised cures which, by plausibly used scientific terms and facts, were calculated by their pretended science to mislead and deceive. This gave rise to an interesting discussion upon the desirability of government supervision and interference in the publication in the press and the sale of such preparations. Messrs. McCormick, Ward, Stetson, Pierce, Farquhar, Blodgett and others took part in the discussion.

J. H. MCCORMICK,
Secretary.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

At the meeting of Tuesday evening, December 8th., thirty persons were present and one new active, and seven corresponding members were elected. The death of Mr. Wm. H. Rudkin, one of the oldest members of the club, was announced by Dr. Britton and a committee was appointed to take suitable action. It was resolved that a complete list of the corresponding members should be printed in the December number of the *Bulletin*. A contribution by Dr. T. F. Allen, entitled 'Descriptions of New Species of *Nitella* from North America and Japan' was read by title by Dr. Britton, in the absence of the author. Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton presented a 'Contribution to the Bryology of Bolivia.' It reviewed the more important collections of Bolivian mosses, the treatment which they had received and the present work in progress on this subject, and enumerated the

bryological collections made by Dr. Rusby in Bolivia in the years 1885 and 1886. This collection contained 96 species, in 39 genera, 42 of the species being hitherto undescribed. Dr. H. H. Rusby spoke of 'Botany at the Pan-American Medical Congress held in the City of Mexico, November, 1896.' This paper contained brief references to the character of the flora observed on the journey to Mexico, an account of the scientific progress in the city, especially pertaining to applied botany and referred to the botanical work organized by the Pan-American Medical Congress. It was supplemented by remarks upon the same subject by Mrs. Britton, who also attended the Congress. A number of important publications by the *Instituto Medico Nacional* were exhibited. Dr. N. L. Britton described a new species of *Geranium* hitherto confounded with *G. Carolinianum*. The papers by Dr. Allen and Dr. and Mrs. Britton will be published in the *Bulletin*, that by Dr. Rusby in the *Druggists' Circular*. On motion the Club adjourned to meet on the second Tuesday in January.

H. H. RUSBY,
Recording Secretary.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

At the meeting of the Academy of St. Louis on the evening of December 21, 1896, Mr. H. von Schrenk made some remarks on the parasitism of lichens, illustrated especially by the long hanging forms of *Usnea barbata*, common on *Juniperus*, etc., on Long Island, N. Y. It was shown that these lichens do not penetrate below the outer periderm of the host, and consequently are not to be regarded as true parasites, but that they frequently cause the death of the latter by suffocation. As Schimper has noted for the long moss of the South, *Tillandsia usneoides*, the plant is capable of dissemination by wind and birds, and of growing in new stations without attachment.

Officers for 1897 were nominated.

WM. TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

Erratum: Prof. H. A. Hazen calls our attention to the fact in our letter from M. W. de Fonvielle on page 762, Hersuite should be Hermite and 60,000 m. should be 15,000 m.