

following Dr. Brinton's and Dr. Boas' papers, as to the validity of the theory of the psychic unity of man in accounting for details of similarities in the mythologies of widely separated peoples.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND,
Secretary of Sub-Section.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, TUESDAY, JANUARY
12, 1897.

THIS was the annual meeting. Six new active and two corresponding members were elected. Resolutions of sorrow were adopted regarding the death of Mr. William H. Rudkin, one of the oldest members, the discoverer of the hybrid oak *Quercus Rudkini*. Annual reports were presented by the standing committees and officers. It was resolved to print a list of the desiderata of the herbarium of plants growing within 100 miles of the city. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$56.89 in the regular fund and \$514.14 in the Buchanan fund.

The Recording Secretary, Dr. Rusby, reported an average attendance of 31 persons at the 15 meetings held during the year, two deaths, a net gain in active membership of 28, a present active membership of 219, corresponding membership 150, honorary membership 4, scientific papers presented 37, of which 22 had been published. Several hundred new species and a number of new genera had been communicated, and there had been a marked increase in the attention given to anatomical and cryptogamic subjects.

The editor reported that Vol. 23 of the *Bulletin* had aggregated 548 pages and 34 full-page plates, and that two numbers of the *Memoirs*, aggregating 206 pages, had been issued. There was a cash balance from publications of \$48.09 in addition to the balance already reported by the Treasurer.

The officers for 1897 were elected as follows: President, Addison Brown; Vice-Presidents, T. H. Allen, H. H. Rusby; Treasurer, Henry Ogden; Recording Secretary, Edward S. Burgess; Corresponding Secretary, John K. Small; Editor, N. L. Britton; Associate Editors, Emily L. Gregory, Arthur Hollick, Anna M. Vail, B. D. Halsted, Lucien M. Underwood; Curator,

Helen M. Ingersoll; Librarian, William E. Wheelock.

The scientific programme of the evening was then taken up as follows:

By Mr. A. J. Grout, 'Notes on Some American *Brachythecia*.'

By Dr. N. L. Britton, *Linum Virginianum* and its Relatives.'

Mr. Grout compared the principles of classification employed by the two prominent bryologists, Schimper and Lindberg, and stated his reasons for preferring those of the latter to those of the former. He then exhibited and remarked upon four American species of *Brachythecium* and expressed the opinion that they represent a genus distinct from *Brachythecium*. The paper will be published in full in the *Bulletin*.

Dr. Britton illustrated the leading distinguishing characteristics between the species of *Linum*, of the *Virginianum* group, and dwelt particularly upon the claims to specific rank of *L. Virginianum medium*, Walter.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

A Dictionary of Birds. ALFRED NEWTON, assisted by HANS GADOW. With contributions from RICHARD LYDEKKER, CHARLES S. ROY and ROBERT W. SHUFELDT. Part IV., Sheath-bill-Zygodactyli. London, Adam and Charles Black; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. 833-1088 + viii + 124. \$2.60.

Experimental Morphology. Part I., Effect of Chemical and Physical Agents upon Proto-plasm. CHARLES BENEDICT DAVENPORT. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. xiv + 280.

Travels in West Africa, Congo Français, Corsica and Cameroons. MARY H. KINGSLEY. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. xvi + 743.

Elementary Geology. RALPH S. TARR. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. xxx + 499. \$1.40.

Catalogus Mammalium. E. L. TROUESSART. Fasciculus I. Berlin, R. Friedländer & Sohn. 1897. Pp. v + 218. M. 10.