

give an account of the development of vertebrate paleontology, with which Professor Cope was so intimately connected.

Dr. Seth C. Chandler, of Cambridge, was elected Auditor of the Association, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. B. A. Gould.

The Permanent Secretary read the letters received from the British Association for the Advancement of Science in which it was stated that the General Committee of the British Association had voted to make the officers of the Detroit meeting of the A. A. S. honorary members of the B. A. A. S. for the Toronto Meeting, and to receive all fellows and members of the American Association as members of the British Association for the Toronto meeting by the payment of the regular annual assessment. It was voted that the Permanent Secretary should acknowledge the courtesy of the British Association and at the same time should express the hope that members of the British Association would be present at the Detroit meeting, calling attention to the provision in the constitution of the American Association relating to members of foreign associations.

Considerable discussion followed as to the proper method of extending courtesies to such members of the British Association as might take part in the Detroit meeting. It was voted that members of the British Association at Detroit should be invited to register as members of the several sections of the American Association, and that special attention should be paid by the officers of the respective sections to all foreigners thus registering.

The Permanent Secretary was instructed to arrange for the delivery of the Vice-Presidential addresses at the Detroit meeting in the afternoon as at former meetings.

F. W. PUTNAM,

Permanent Secretary, A. A. S.

CONGRESS OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE fourth triennial session of the Congress was held at Washington on May 4th, 5th and 6th. The meeting was well attended, as it deserved to be, the proceedings of the Congress as a whole and of the separate societies being interesting and profitable. Washington, especially in the spring, is the best possible place for such meetings, and this was recognized by deciding to hold the triennial meetings hereafter in that city. The only drawback is the lack of an adequate auditorium, which may be provided in the interval.

The proceedings of the Congress, as a whole, included several joint discussions. On Wednesday afternoon the Association of American Physicians, the American Physiological Society and the American Pediatric Society, united in discussing 'Internal Secretions considered in their Physiological, Pathological and Clinical Aspects.' The other subjects taken into consideration in the general sessions were 'The Gouty and Rheumatic Diatheses and their Relation to Diseases of the Eye,' 'Otology in its Relations to General Medicine,' 'Deformities of the Hip-Joint, especially Congenital Dislocations,' and 'The Classification of Acute General Peritonitis: The Prognosis and Treatment of the Different Varieties.'

The address by the President, Professor William H. Welch, on Thursday evening, was entitled, 'Compensatory and Protective Pathological Processes,' and was an admirable presentation of the subject, equally interesting to the practitioner and to the man of science concerned with the study of adaptations and evolution. The attendance at the meeting was large, although it and the subsequent reception were unfortunately simultaneous with a lecture by Sir Archibald Geikie and a reception to him in the rooms of the Geological Survey. Other ar-

rangements for the entertainment and social intercourse of members were a banquet on Tuesday evening at the Arlington and a 'Smoker' given by the Cosmos Club on Thursday evening.

On Wednesday afternoon a statue of the late eminent surgeon, Samuel D. Gross, was unveiled on the Smithsonian grounds near the Army Medical Museum. The statue was presented to the United States Government in a speech by Dr. C. N. Mastin, and was received by Surgeon-General George M. Sternberg. An address was made by Professor W. W. Keen, the successor of Gross at the Jefferson Medical College. It is to be hoped that many statues of men who have contributed to the advancement of science may ultimately find their place in the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution.

Reports of the proceedings of the American Physiological Society and of the Association of American Anatomists will be published in this journal. The papers presented before the various medical societies were so numerous that it is not possible to present a report of them, even though many of the contributions were not merely of interest to the medical specialist, but were also valuable contributions to science. The societies taking part in the Congress, their presidents and the numbers of papers offered before each, were as follows:

The American Otological Society,

Dr. Arthur Mathewson, Brooklyn, N. Y. 6 papers.

The American Neurological Association,

Dr. M. Allen Starr, New York City. 27 papers.

The American Gynecological Society,

Dr. James R. Chadwick, Boston, Mass. 21 papers.

The American Dermatological Association,

Dr. James C. White, Boston, Mass. 26 papers.

The American Laryngological Association,

Dr. Charles H. Knight, New York City. 18 papers.

The American Surgical Association,

Dr. John Collins Warren, Boston, Mass. 21 papers, including six subjects, followed by special discussion.

The American Climatological Association,

Dr. E. Fletcher Ingalls, Chicago, Ills. 26 papers.

The Association of American Physicians,

Dr. J. M. DaCosta, Philadelphia, Pa. 36 papers.

The American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons,

Dr. Francis S. Watson, Boston, Mass. 20 papers.

The American Orthopedic Association,

Dr. Samuel Ketch, New York City. 45 papers.

The American Physiological Society,

Dr. Russell H. Chittenden, New Haven, Conn. 22 papers.

The Association of American Anatomists,

Dr. Frank Baker, Washington, D. C. 10 papers.

The American Pediatric Society,

Dr. Samuel S. Adams, Washington, D. C. 33 papers.

The American Ophthalmological Society,

Dr. George C. Harlan, Philadelphia, Pa. 38 papers.

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES.

COLOR CHANGE IN THE PLUMAGE OF BIRDS. UNACCOMPANIED BY MOULT.

NOT long ago SCIENCE noticed two papers, one by Dr. J. A. Allen and one by Mr. F. M. Chapman, in which the possibility of any change of color taking place in a feather after it was fully developed was emphatically denied. Now Dr. Arthur E. Chadbourne comes forward in the *Auk* for April, 1897, with facts which seem to make it evident that this alleged impossibility does take place. The author kept a pet Bobolink from January until the breeding plumage was complete, and writes as follows: "The bird always seemed well and strong, and the color change was NOT accompanied by any increase in feather loss, i. e., not greater than during the winter, and often for several days in succession there were no cast-off feathers at all to be found. The total during the three weeks that the change was in progress was *thirteen*—namely, two broken rectrices and eleven contour feathers. It is hardly possible that any stray specimens were unnoticed, for even had they fallen outside of the cage they would have been found in the room, and a wire netting protected the window. 'Pin-feathers' could hardly have been overlooked, if present; for I often held the bird in my hand and