

den, Mass.; W. B. Barrows, Agricultural College, Michigan; R. H. Pettit, Agricultural College, Michigan; W. S. Blatchley, Indianapolis, Ind.

The following were elected foreign members; Claude Fuller, Richard Helm, both of Perth, West Australia. These additions increase the members of this Association to 93 active and 31 foreign members.

The following papers were read and discussed: 'Additional Observations on the Parasites of *Orgyia leucostigma*;' 'Temperature Effects as Affecting Received Ideas on the Hibernation of Injurious Insects;' 'A Valuable Coccid;' 'Notes on the Common House Fly,' L. O. Howard; 'Notes on Certain Species of Coleoptera that attack Useful Plants' (abstract), F. H. Chittenden; 'An Experience with Paris Green,' T. D. A. Cockerell; 'Insects of the Year,' E. A. Onerod; 'A Fungus Disease of the San Jose Scale,' P. H. Rolfs; 'The San Jose Scale in Michigan;' 'A Malodorous Carabid, *Nomius pygmaeus*,' W. B. Barrows; 'A Study of Lepidopterous Insects at Light and at Sugar;' 'Vernacular Names of Insects,' C. P. Gillette; 'A Study of the Possible Origin and Distribution of the Chinch Bug,' F. M. Webster; 'Notes on Cape of Good Hope Insects,' C. P. Lounsbury; 'The Giant Cactus and Its Fauna,' H. G. Hubbard; 'Insects of the Year in Ohio,' F. M. Webster-C. W. Mally; 'On the Preparation and Use of Arsenate of Lead,' A. H. Kirkland. A number of papers, the authors of which were not present, were read by title and will be included, probably, in the published proceedings of the Association. Among these papers were the following: 'Notes on Insecticides,' 'The Peach Twig Borer, *Anasia lineatella*,' C. L. Marlatt; *Ledra perdita* vs. *Centruchus liebeckii*,' F. W. Goding; 'Notes sur les Insectes Nuisibles observés en Algérie et en Tunisie pendant l'année 1896-97,' 'Notes sur les Insectes Nuisibles observés en France,' Paul

Marchal; 'Notes on Injurious Insects of Norway and Sweden,' W. M. Schoyen.

Several resolutions were passed, among which were (1) a resolution requesting the publication of the proceedings as a bulletin of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and (2) expressing familiarity with the efforts of the State of Massachusetts to exterminate the gypsy moth and commending the results already accomplished.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Herbert Osborn, Ames, Iowa; First Vice-President, Lawrence Bruner, Lincoln, Neb.; Second Vice-President, C. P. Gillette, Ft. Collins, Colo.; Secretary-Treasurer, C. L. Marlatt, Washington, D. C.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Boston, Mass., August 19-20, 1898.

A. H. KIRKLAND,
Secretary pro tem.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE ANCIENT SLAVONIC TYPE.

THERE prevails considerable uncertainty as to the appearance of the ancient Slavs. Professor Lubor Niederle, of Prague, however, in a recent work, and also in *Globus*, No. 24, advances what seems sufficient reasons to pronounce them to have been blonde and dolichocephalic. He quotes the earliest authentic references in classical authorities, all of which refer to the fair complexion and reddish blonde (*ξανθός*) hue of the Slavic peoples. In these respects the descriptions are the same as of the early Goths.

It is true that at present, and also in many interments of ancient dates, brachycephalic skulls are found in considerable numbers; and persons with dark complexions and dark hair are numerous in Slavic countries. Professor Niederle explains this change of type by two agencies, intermixture with other stocks, and by civilization.

About the latter he writes: "We cannot demonstrate the connection, but there is a striking parallelism between advancing civilization and the gradual increase of the skull in width." This is an interesting statement, and it is to be hoped that Professor Niederle will make it the subject of a special study in the future.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE MAMS.

THE Mams lived in the northwestern part of Guatemala and enjoyed an advanced indigenous civilization. Their capital was Zakeleu, the White Land, meaning the place of culture; for in all the Maya dialects white is a metaphorical expression for civilized conditions. By some the Mams have been held to be the earliest of the Mayas to become sedentary and city builders. Their ancient native name was Zak-lohpakap, the White Cultivators.

A vocabulary of their tongue was printed by Father Reynoso, at Mexico, in 1644, but is now so scarce that it is inaccessible to students. The Comte de Charencey has, therefore, conferred a favor on Americanists by republishing it in the *Actes de la Société Philologique*, Tome XXV. It contains nearly three thousand words, and offers ample material for comparisons with the other dialects of the stock. It is closely akin to the Quiche, and is still spoken in a number of villages. The volume may be had from C. Klincksieck, 11, Rue de Lille, Paris.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

IN 1887 Professor Chroustchoff announced the discovery of a new element in the monazite sand of North Carolina, to which he gave the name 'russium.' This discovery has not been confirmed by any other chemist, but, induced by the supposed discovery of 'lucium,' Professor Chroustchoff has again gone over his work, pub-

lishing a short report in the *Journal* of the Russian Chemical Society. According to *Nature* he has from 25 kilos of rare earths extracted 35 grams of russium. It has an atomic weight of 70.5 and its spectrum is characterized by a group of green and violet lines. He also claims to have resolved cerium into five components, differing in physical properties, and having atomic weights respectively of 138, 140, 142, 146 and 156.5. He also finds, in addition to Auer's neodymium and praseodymium, a third new constituent of didymium to which he gives the name glaukodymium. A detailed account of his work is promised at an early date.

In the last *Berichte*, W. Hentschel gives an account of further investigations on the chloride of nitrogen, in which he finds the compound normally formed to have the formula NCl_3 , confirming the work of Gattermann and of Balard. He also finds that this compound can take up more chlorine until its composition seems to be NCl_5 , but this is really a solution of chlorine in the chloride of nitrogen. His method of forming this exceedingly explosive and dangerous compound is to bring together solutions of ammonium chloride and sodium hypochlorite, and dissolve the chloride of nitrogen formed, which partly separates out and partly remains in solution, in benzene.

In the *Pharm. J. Trans.*, C. H. J. Warden describes the method used in the Calcutta Medical Depot for the production of a pure silver nitrate from coin silver. The silver used contains copper and is dissolved in nitric acid and a portion of the silver nitrate crystallized out in the usual way. As soon as the mother liquor is so concentrated that the silver nitrate crystallizing out is contaminated with copper it is evaporated to dryness, finely powdered and placed in a glass funnel stopped by an asbestos plug. It is then washed with pure concentrated