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Dr. Amand Ravold spoke informally of formaldehyde gas as a disinfectant, and exhibited several forms of apparatus adapted to its use. It was stated that, although in confined spaces the gas has proved an effective disinfectant, which has the merit of not injuring the most delicate fabrics or polished metal surfaces, its germicide action in dwelling rooms has thus far proved less satisfactory than that of sulphur dioxide and chlorine, so far as it has been tested by the Health Department of the City of St. Louis ; so that, as yet, the Health Department has not found it possible to employ it as a substitute for the older and in some respects more objectionable disinfectants.

Two persons were proposed for active membership in the Academy.

WILLIAM TRELEASE.

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

*The American Geologist*, January. Several important changes are to be adopted by this journal during the coming year. Professor N. H. WINCHELL is now the editor-in-chief, and there are eleven associate editors. A new department has been added, which is not covered by any other geological journal. This is a monthly authors' catalogue of American geological literature. Besides forming a part of the regular magazine, it is proposed to issue this catalogue on separate sheets for the benefit of librarians and investigators. The undertaking seems a very commendable one, and will form a valuable index. In the present number G. K. GILBERT gives a sketch of the life and works of the late Joseph F. James, with a portrait. N. H. WINCHELL elucidates the determination of the feldspars in a manner which will be found of much service to petrologists. The Pittsburg Coal Bed, one of the richest mineral deposits in the eastern United States, is described by I. C. WHITE, in respect to its age, area and

structure. The drilling for petroleum has shown that the coal area belonging to this bed is much smaller than has been estimated. The reviews of recent geological literature, personal and scientific news, and correspondence, are a feature of the magazine as heretofore.

*American Chemical Journal*, January. 'On Salts of Nitroparaffins and Acylated Derivatives of Hydroxylamine,' L. W. JONES. 'The Action of the Halogenes on the Aliphatic Amines and the Preparation of their Perhalides,' J. F. NORRIS : A comparison of the action of bromide and iodine and the formation of a number of perhalides containing one or more halides. 'On Acyl Imido Esters,' H. L. WHEELER, P. T. WALDEN and H. F. METCALF. 'Notes on Double Salts of the Analides, with Cuprous Chloride and Cuprous Bromide,' W. J. COMSTOCK.

J. ELLIOTT GILPIN.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*Lehrbuch der vergleichenden mikroskopischen Anatomie der Wirbeltiere.* ALBERT OPPEL. Jena, Gustav Fischer. 1897. 2d part. Pp. viii+682. M. 20.

*Die Farnkräuter der Erde.* H. CHRIST. Jena, Gustav Fischer. 1897. Pp. xii+388. M. 12.

*L'électro Chimie.* AD. MINET. Paris, Gauthier Villars et Fils. 1897. Pp. 167. 2 fr. 50 c.

*Transactions of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, 4th Triennial Session.* New Haven, Conn., Published by the Congress. Pp. liv+310.

*Ethnological Studies Among the Northwest Central Greenland Aborigines.* WALTER E. ROTH. Brisbane and London, Government Printer. 1897. Pp. xvi+199 and 23 plates.

*Dissection of the Ophidian.* DAVID S. KELLICOTT. Columbus, O. 1898. Pp. 72.

*The Psychology of Suggestion.* BORIS SIDIS. With an introduction by WILLIAM JAMES. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1898. Pp. x+386. \$1.75.

*Evolutional Ethics and Animal Psychology.* E. P. EVANS. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1898. Pp. 386. \$1.75.