

## CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

AT the fourteenth annual meeting, held January 13th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz.: President, Henry N. Stokes; Vice-Presidents, Peter Fireman, H. Carrington Bolton; Secretary, William H. Krug; Treasurer, W. P. Cutter; Executive Committee, the above and Charles E. Monroe, E. A. de Schweinitz, Wirt Tassin, W. F. Hillebrand.

V. K. CHESNUT,  
*Secretary pro tempore.*

## BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON—285TH MEETING, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15.

THE major part of the evening was devoted to 'A Symposium on Recent Additions of Our Knowledge of the Cell,' the subject being introduced by Dr. Frank Baker, who gave a brief *résumé* of the successive discoveries in regard to the structure of the cell, touching on the theories of the alveolar and filar structures of the cytoplasm and dwelling at some length on the changes which take place in the nucleus during cell division.

Messrs. David G. Fairchild, Herbert J. Weber and Walter T. Swingle, who followed, presented the topic chiefly from a botanical standpoint, showing that the processes of nuclear and cell division were much more varied in plants than among animals, and might be very different, even taking place without the presence of a centrosome.

F. A. LUCAS,  
*Secretary.*

## BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

THE Society met December 15th, one hundred and five persons present.

Professor W. M. Davis, with the aid of a series of lantern slides, gave a graphic account of excursions from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Some of the prominent physiographic features of parts of New England, Niagara, the Lake Superior Region, the Lake of the Woods, Lake Simcoe, the Black Hills, the Canadian Rockies and portions of the country along the Northern Pacific Railroad were described and illustrated.

A general meeting was held January 5th, forty-two persons present.

Mr. Frank Russell read some notes upon the Athabascan Indians, as observed in the neighborhood of the Great Slave Lake, on the Barren Ground of Canada. The men devote themselves to hunting, traveling in canoes and on snow shoes; the women are hard workers and, in addition to all the household duties, prepare the skins and make the garments. Personally the men are more cleanly than the women. Tattooing is not now practiced, and, under the influence of the Roman Catholic missionaries, polygamy has been abandoned; the Athabascans are Christians and Catholics. Mr. Russell also described many Athabascan songs, their music, the methods of camp making, and the celebration at Easter, and closed with a series of lantern views illustrating the physical type of the tribe, their dwellings and some of their habits and customs.

Mr. John Murdoch said that the canoes, as shown by Mr. Russell, were similar to those used on the Yukon.

SAMUEL HENSHAW,  
*Secretary.*

## NEW BOOKS.

*Text-book of Physical Chemistry.* CLARENCE L. SPEYERS. New York, D. Van Nostrand Co. 1897. Pp. vii+224. \$2.25.

*The Mathematical Theory of the Top.* FELIX KLEIN. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1897. Pp. 74.

*A Short Handbook of Oil Analysis.* AUGUSTUS H. GILL. Philadelphia and London, J. B. Lippincott Co. Pp. 139.

*Chapters on the Natural History of the United States.* R. W. SHUFELDT. New York, Studer Brothers. 1897. Pp. 472+Index.

*A Primer of Psychology.* EDWARD BRADFORD TITCHENER. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xvi+314. \$1.00.

*A Description of Minerals of Commercial Value.* D. M. BARRINGER. New York and London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1897. Pp. 168.

*A. Ecker's and R. Wiedersheim's Anatomie des Frosches.* Revised by ERNST GAUPP. Braunschweig, Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn. 1896-7. Pp. xiii+229 and ii+234.