ists, who refer to the study of chemistry in Germany as the model to be copied.

It would be an interesting occupation for a retired chemist, of statistical mind, to make a collection of government chemical examination papers in all countries, and of the compends used in cramming for the examinations; then to see whether the dryness of the systems is local or general. E. Renouf.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON—289TH MEETING, MARCH 12.

Dr. C. W. Stiles presented some 'Practical Suggestions in Regard to Trichinosis,' briefly reviewing the methods of pork inspection in vogue in Germany.

Dr. Erwin F. Smith spoke on 'Migula's System der Bakterien,' stating that Migula was the first to classify bacteria on morphological instead of physiological characters. He briefly outlined the groups and genera adopted, giving the characters on which they were based.

Dr. F. C. Kenyon, under the title 'Some Recent Advances in our Knowledge of the Nervous System,' briefly reviewed the general structure of the nervous system of arthropods. The fact was brought out that the so-called nerve cell is situated on the outside of the system, thus resulting in the formation of a nerve element comparable with the spinal ganglia of mammals. This so-called nerve cell was given the name of cytosomite, and the process leading from it into the nervous system was denominated the caulite, the remaining portions of the element being considered as neurite and dendrite. The distinctions between these was based upon function and the nerve element compared to a Leyden jar, of which the neurite was held to be the recipient part, and the dendrite the discharging part, for all neural impulses. In the case of the dendrite, however, this distinction may be faulty, since dendrites occur whose relations seem to indicate that they must function both as recipient and discharging parts. It was thought that the arthropod cytosomite and caulite do not function in the transfer of neural impulses, since they lie to one side of what seems to be the most direct route. The neurocyte, or nerve element, was briefly defined and the different types of neurocytes to be found in the nervous system of arthropods briefly described and commented on. The paper will be published in full later on. F. A. Lucas,

Secretary.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, JANUARY 13.

The fourth annual meeting of the Washington Section of the American Chemical Society was held on January 13th. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: H. N. Stokes, President; Peter Fireman and H. Carrington Bolton, Vice-Presidents; William H. Krug, Secretary; W. P. Cutter, Treasurer, and C. E. Munroe, E. A. de Schweinitz, Wirt Tassin and W. F. Hillebrand, additional members of the Executive Committee.

The regular February meeting was held on Thursday evening, February 10th. Mr. Tassin presented a paper on 'The Origin of Crystals and Crystalline Growth,' which contained a *résumé* of theories concerning the origin of crystals and the processes of crystal-growth, and consisted of a discussion of the results of the researches of Vogelsang, Behrens, Knop, Sadebeck and Lehmann.

Dr. H. Carrington Bolton read a paper entitled 'Iatro-Chemistry in 1897,' which was published in full in last week's issue of Science.

Dr. H. W. Wiley addressed the Society on the subject of pure food legislation, and discussed the benefits which would undoubtedly result from the deliberations of the Pure Food Congress, which will assemble in Washington on March 2d. William H. Krug,

Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Quantitative Chemical Analysis by Electrolysis. Alexander Classen, in cooperation with Dr. Walter Löb; authorized translation by W. H. Herrick and B. B. Boltwood. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall. 1898. Pp. 301. $3.00.

Reform of Chemical and Physical Calculations. C. J. T. Hanssen. London and New York, Spon & Chamberlain. 1897. Pp. 72.

Einfühlung und Association in der neueren Aesthetik. Paul Stern. Hamburg und Leipzig, Leopold Voss. 1898. Pp. viii+81. M. 2.