

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

MEETING OF THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE New York Section of the American Chemical Society held its meeting on the third instant at the College of the City of New York, forty-four members present, and Dr. Wm. McMurtrie presiding.

The following papers were read :

- (1) F. J. Pope, 'A Preliminary Note on the Titaniferous Magnetites of Eastern Ontario.'
- (2) E. J. Levine, 'A Comparison of Some Methods used for the determination of Starch.'
- (3) C. H. Fulton, 'The Assay of Teluride Ores.'
- (4) W. S. Meyers, 'Note on a Convenient Method for Maintaining Reduction of Ferrous Solutions.'
- (5) C. F. McKenna, 'Slag Cements.'
- (6) G. L. Heath, 'A Short Study of Methods for the Estimation of Sulphur in Coal.' Read by title.

Dr. McKenna's paper gave a very interesting résumé of the status of slag cements and was discussed by Messrs. Richardson and McMurtrie.

A report by the Secretary showed that nine regular and two special meetings had been held, at which thirty-five papers had been read, with an average attendance of about fifty. The membership of the section is 276.

The election of officers for the ensuing year took place in accordance with the recent action of the Section in ordering the election for the June meeting instead of October, as formerly, thus enabling the summer months to be more profitably used in accumulating material for the next season's meetings.

Dr. McMurtrie was unanimously re-elected Chairman, after a neat little speech by Professor Bogert, in which the appreciation of the Section was well expressed for the efficient conduct of the meetings during the season. Dr. McMurtrie replied that it was his desire that some one else should succeed him, but that if it were the wish of the section to have him continue in office another year he would not decline, but would continue in the effort to make the New York Section the largest and most active of any of the sections; in which effort, however, he needed and desired the hearty coöperation and assist-

ance of every member, present and absent. On motion the nominations were closed and a unanimous rising vote taken.

Durand Woodman was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, no other nomination being made, as also the Executive Committee—C. A. Doremus, A. C. Hale and A. A. Breneman. Delegates to the Scientific Alliance—E. E. Smith and Marston T. Bogert.

The next meeting will be held early in October.

DURAND WOODMAN.

Secretary.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, APRIL 12, 1898.

THE scientific program was as follows :

1. Dr. Underwood presented a paper by Rev. E. J. Hill, of Chicago, on '*Vitis Labrusca* and its Westward Distribution,' describing its growth on the sand-hills south of Lake Michigan, there showing, among its specific characters, a tough skin and pulp, large seeds, blue to vinous-purple color, and globose or depressed fruit even larger than in cultivated varieties, such as the Concord.

Discussion followed, Dr. Britton speaking of the high value to be attached to the character founded on intermittent tendrils. The Secretary and Dr. Rusby spoke of pink, purple and other colors among its variants in nature. Mr. Rydberg mentioned the similar wide range of color-variants in *Prunus* in Nebraska, where leaf and other characters may be indistinguishable, but the fruit will vary in color, and also in flesh, taste and flavor.

2. A communication on 'South American Piperaceæ' was presented by Dr. Rusby, on behalf of Professor Casimir de Candolle. Professor de Candolle, in studying the last of the collections in this family made by Mr. Bang, had also determined a considerable number of Bolivian specimens pertaining to the early collections of Weddell, Mandon and others. Among the results were the eleven new species now described. These new species were exhibited, and remarks were also made by Dr. Rusby descriptive of the habits and appearances of these plants as they grow in the Andes.

Dr. Britton spoke of the interest attaching to the Piperaceæ as the simplest type of the Dicotyledons, because of the simple character of the

carpels, fruit and tissues. Dr. Rusby referred to the separation of *Saururus* from the Piperaceæ, and to Dr. Henry's investigations now in progress upon a *Saururus* in China.

3. The next feature of the evening was the exhibition, by Dr. Britton, of a large and interesting set of blue prints from tracings made from Mexican plants. The originals were sent by Mocino and Sesse to M. Alphonse de Candolle at Geneva, but these and the accompanying text remained unpublished. Recently the text has been issued by the Mexican Natural History Society. The elder de Candolle furnished a series of tracings to Dr. Gray, from which the blue prints exhibited have been made at the instance of Dr. J. N. Rose, of Washington, D. C. An index and preface to the blue-prints has been supplied by M. Casimir de Candolle.

4. The subject next following was that of those members of the Convolvulaceæ which form large fleshy roots, introduced by Dr. Rusby, who exhibited specimens of the roots of *Ipomœa pandurata* sent by Mr. C. R. Beadle, of Biltmore, N. C. Three fusiform roots reached from 3 to 4½ feet long, 3 to 5 inches thick, and also developed at least one foot of slender root above, below the surface of the ground. One of these was forked, suggesting its name of 'Man in-the-Ground.' Medicinally it is used as a purgative.

Dr. Rydberg referred to the thicker, shorter root of *Ipomœa leptophylla*, which has a sweet taste, and frequents hillsides, where its roots serve as a storehouse for moisture as well as for starch.

Dr. Rusby suggested that the resinous matter found in these roots may be primarily a waste product, but is perhaps useful to the plant as a means of preventing its being eaten by enemies.

5. The next communication was from Mrs. E. G. Britton, on 'A Hybrid Moss.' Mrs. Britton exhibited Contribution No. 72 from the Herbarium of Columbia reprinted from the *Bulletin* for February, 1895, showing plate 231 to illustrate a hybrid of *Aphanorhegma serratum* collected by Drummond near St. Louis, Missouri, in 1841, and stated that the same hybrid had been rediscovered by Mr. D. A. Burnett on December 12, 1896, near Bradford, Pennsyl-

vania, along the Erie Railroad, on a heap of ashes left by burning old ties, and that it was associated with *Bryum argenteum* and *Funaria hygrometrica*. As in the case of Drummond's specimens, the antheridial parent is unknown, but was probably *Physcomitrium turbinatum*; it scarcely seems possible that it could have been *Funaria*. The specimens agree in every way and show various degrees of heredity from each parent. On most of the plants typical immersed capsules of *Aphanorhegma* occur together with either one exserted, long-pedicelled capsule of *Physcomitrium* or with two smaller immersed capsules more closely related to *Physcomitrium* than to *Aphanorhegma*. As in Drummond's specimens, the apical lid with a clearly differentiated border, the shallow spore-sac, and especially the different cell-structure of the walls and the less developed spores, clearly distinguish the hybrid sporophytes from typical *Aphanorhegma*.

Discussion followed regarding hybrid ferns and respecting *Asplenium ebeneum* and *A. ebenoides*. In answer to questions by Dr. Rusby, Dr. Underwood said that where both species grow together in North Carolina he finds *A. ebenoides* growing beneath cliffs, but *A. ebeneum* in different situations about the edges of boulders, while the associated fern *Camptosorus* inhabits only the flat tops of the rocks.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

The Study of Man. ALFRED C. HADDON. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons; London, Bliss, Sands & Co. 1898. Pp. xxv + 410. \$2.00.

Syllabus on Vertebrata. EDWARD D. COPE. With an introduction by HENRY F. OSBORN. Philadelphia, Published for the University of Pennsylvania. 1898. Pp. xxxv + 135.

Hand-Book of Nature Study. D. LANGE. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xv + 329. \$1.00.

Nature Study in Elementary Schools. Reader: Myths, Stories, Poems. MRS. LUCY LANGDON WILLIAMS WILSON. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. 181. 35 cents.