THE AMERICAN MORPHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

I.

THE ninth meeting of the Society was held at Columbia University, New York City, on December 28th, 29th and 30th. Professor H. F. Osborn was in the chair; Dr. G. H. Parker, Secretary. In the course of his introductory remarks, Professor Osborn welcomed the Morphologists to the new zoological laboratories at Columbia, and especially congratulated the Society upon the rapid progress which morphology in all its branches is making in this country. He spoke of the important part which had been played by the *Journal of Morphology* during the past eleven years, and the debt owed by American zoologists to Mr. Allis for his generous support. This journal now requires for its maintenance the financial support of all morphologists of this country, all of whom should assist by subscribing. One of the marked features of recent progress is the rapid development of fresh-water and marine biological stations, all of which are contributing to our detailed knowledge of American fauna, and in some cases extending even to the study of important foreign types. The greatest defect in recent work is the tendency to prolixity. 'Brevity is the soul of wit,' and the very expansion of zoological literature necessitates as condensed a style of writing as is consistent with completeness and clearness. The recently collected papers of Huxley prove that it is possible to present the most important results in very condensed form.

In the business session the following are the more important transactions: A resolution expressing the grateful acknowledgments of the Society to Mr. Edward Phelps Allis, Jr., for his munificent gifts towards the founding and maintenance of the *Journal of Morphology* during the first ten years of its existence; the election to membership of F. W. Bancroft, C. L. Bristol, G. N. Calkins, J. J. Hamaker, Samuel Henshaw, C. F. W. McClure, C. B. Wilson and M. A. Wilcox; and the election of officers: President, E. G. Conklin; Vice-President, W. M. Wheeler; Secretary and Treasurer, Bashford Dean; Executive Committee, J. P. McMurrich and G. H. Parker.

Forty-five papers were presented before the scientific sessions, of which the greater number are here given in summary in the order in which they were read.

Notes on the Development of a Myxinoid. BASHFORD DEAN.

PARTICULAR reference was made to the horn-like egg membrane as maternal in origin; it is traversed by pore-canals analogous to those of the radiata of teleostomes. The anchor filaments represent the greatly specialized end-bulbs of the radial elements of the shell. Early segmentation is confined to a small but definite hillock of germinal protoplasm subjacent to the micropylar canal. In early blastula stages the cell cap extends downward to the region of the opercular ring. Gastrulation is noted when a downgrowth takes place on one side; here the head of the embryo shortly appears, and the trunk is laid down longitudinally as the blastoderm progresses, now symmetrically, toward the vegetative pole. Neural folds are early apparent, and the brain is tubular and relatively of great length. In some cases the tail buds out when the downgrowth of the blastoderm has enveloped scarcely more than the anterior half of the egg. In others the outgrowth of the tail is notably retarded. A primitive streak is present, terminating behind in an ovate yolk plug; the latter is latest apparent near the vegetative pole. There is no evidence of a greater number of gill slits than the normal number.

On the Reproductive Habits and Development of the Californian Land Salamander, Autodax. W. E. RITTER. (Presented by G. H. Parker.)