sation is experienced on finding every common weed under foot to be what would have been a greenhouse plant at home. But he heard our soldiers say: "We would rather go out and pick a dandelion once more."

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE May meeting of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was held on the 5th at the Chemists' Club, 108 West Fifty-fifth Street.

Mr. A. H. Allen, of Sheffield, England, well known as the author of the 'Commercial Organic Analysis,' was present as the Society's guest and was warmly welcomed. In response he made a short address expressing keen appreciation of his reception by the Section and his pleasure of being able to attend this meeting.

The papers of the evening were by:

1. W. S. Myers: 'On the Alcoholic Content of Some Temperance Drinks.'

2. J. H. Stebbins: 'Upon the Action of Diazo Compounds upon Thymol para-sulpho-Acids.'

3. J. H. Stebbins: 'Note upon the Reichert Figure of Butter.'

4. L. L. Van Slyke, Geneva, N. Y.: 'Some Facts and Fictions about Milk.'

5. Martin L. Griffin, Mechanicsville, N. Y.: 'Comparative Value of certain Reagents for removing Lime and Magnesia from Natural Waters for Industrial Uses.'

6. Charles F. McKenna: 'A New Laboratory Valve.'

DURAND WOODMAN,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

LARVAL STAGE OF THE EEL.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mr. Eugene Blackford's 'Note on the Spawning Season of the Eel' in SCIENCE (p. 741–742) is interesting as well as important. As Mr. Blackford has indicated, almost "the only known instance of the taking of a sexually matured eel has been in waters of [nearly] one hundred or more fathoms in depth." Others are rare. It is probable, however, that our east-coast eels generally spawn in water of less depth. The occurrence of an eel with well-developed eggs in water only two or three fathoms deep in May is, however, truly exceptional. The question then arises whether the eel had matured eggs 'many months later than in the Mediterranean' or earlier. I am disposed to believe that the individual noticed had wandered beyond its breeding ground and abnormally retained its eggs on account of its uncongenial environment. As Mr. Blackford also remarks about New York, "it has always been supposed that the spawning season takes place within a month or so of the" descent of the eels in November and December, and that 'the elvers (*montées*) which ascend the rivers' in the next ensuing 'early spring' are the young of those that had entered the sea a few months before. For a long time I have been of a different opinion. Inasmuch as (1) the sea-going eels do not mature their ova till the winter season, (2) the leptocephalus young are found from February to September, or later, and (3) the transitional form between the leptocephalus stage and the cylindrical stage has been found in January, it appears tolerably certain that the elvers which ascend the rivers in the early spring are the progeny of eels that descended therefrom *not later* than winter of the *penultimate* (and not last) year before.

It may be of interest to add that brief notices and figures have been published of the development of the eel in a readily accessible journal—*Nature*—for March 18, 1897 (Vol. 55, pp. 467–468), and for May 27, 1897 (Vol. 56, p. 85).

THEO. GILL.

WASHINGTON, May 26, 1899.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT a general meeting of the members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain on May 22d the following scientific men were elected honorary members in commemoration of the centenary of the Institution, which is being celebrated this week: Professor S. Arrhenius, (Stockholm), Professor C. Barus (Brown University), Professor H. Becquerel (Paris), Professor G. L. Ciamician (Bologna), Professor N. Egorof (St. Petersburg), Professor A. P. N.