

instrument. It was exhibited at the request of Dr. J. C. Arthur, by whom the instrument is offered.

Professor O. F. Cook gave 'Notes on Some of the Work of the Division of Botany of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.' The investigations of poisonous plants and the resulting publications were noticed, also the work of the Seed Laboratory reporting upon the germinating power and purity (freedom from weeds and other adulterations) of commercial seeds. Variety tests, particularly of garden vegetables, including recent introductions from abroad are also in progress, and the use of a large tract of land on the Potomac Flats has recently been secured for the purpose. The Section of Seed and Plant Introduction is conducting the importations from abroad and has had, during the past year, agricultural explorers in Japan, Russia and the Mediterranean region. The introduction of new cereals, including rice, garden vegetables, dates and the fig insect (*Blastophaga*) are among the most important items secured. In connection with this work a collection of economic plants is a necessity and has been supplied by an herbarium of economic plants.

Professor W. J. Beal told of the Botanical Club organized by the students and teachers of the Michigan Agricultural College. This has an order of procedure similar to the Botanical Club of the A. A. S. Dr. Beal also spoke of the introduction and persistence of *Cabomba Caroliniana* on the grounds of the Michigan Agricultural College.

Professor A. S. Hitchcock spoke of the peculiar distribution of several swamp plants in Kansas and illustrated by maps. Their scattered and unexpected occurrence was remarked upon. He also exhibited first-year results of certain wheat crosses.

Two or three other titles were passed, owing to the early departure or absence of

the authors. At the close of the session of the Club on Thursday afternoon, N. L. Britton, A. S. Hitchcock and O. F. Cook, comprising the Committee on Nominations, reported, and the Club elected the following officers:

President—Professor F. S. Earle, Auburn, Alabama.

Vice-President—A. D. Selby, Wooster, Ohio.

Secretary—Professor F. E. Lloyd, New York City.

Upon motion, the cordial thanks of the Botanical Club were extended to Professor Kellerman for excellent arrangements; to the Local Committee of the Association for badges, and to the authorities of the Ohio State University for many courtesies enjoyed.

It was remarked by Dr. Britton that the twenty-seven titles of papers presented before the Botanical Club, those before Section G and those presented before the Botanical Society of America show a greater number than in any other science represented at the meeting. This he thought was an augury of widespread botanical activity; it also indicates that but for the affiliated societies Section G would have been overwhelmed.

On motion, the Club adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning of the next meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A. D. SELBY,
Acting Secretary.

THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

THE twenty-first annual meeting of the Society was held in Columbus, Ohio, August 17th, 18th and 19th; and, though not largely attended, it was an occasion of good fellowship and enthusiasm.

Among the papers read and discussed were the following: An Expedient in Difficult Resolution, by R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y. The Relation of Cancer to Defective

Development, by M. A. Veeder, Lyons, N. Y. Notes on Laboratory Technic, by S. H. Gage, Ithaca, N. Y. The Present Status of Scientific Bibliography, by Henry B. Ward, Lincoln, Nebr. The Reaction of Diabetic Blood to some of the Aniline Dyes, by V. A. Latham, Chicago, Ill. Notices of Some Undescribed Infusoria, by J. C. Smith, New Orleans, La. Modern Conceptions of the Structure and Classification of Diatoms, by Charles E. Bessey, Lincoln, Nebr. Comparative Structure of the Soft Palate, by W. F. Mercer, Ithaca, N. Y. A New Microscope Stand, by A. G. Field, Des Moines, Ia. The Eyes of Typhlomage from the Artesian Well at San Marcos, Texas, by C. H. Eigenmann, Bloomington, Ind. Methods Employed in the Study of the Chiasma of *Bufo vulgaris* by B. D. Myers, Ithaca, N. Y. Indexing, Cataloguing and Arranging Microscopical Literature and Slides, by R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y. Notes on New Genera of Water Mites, by R. H. Wolcott, Lincoln, Nebr. *Notogonia Ehrenbergii*, Perty, by J. C. Smith, New Orleans, La. Limnobiology and its Problems, by Henry B. Ward, Lincoln, Nebr. The Plankton of Echo River, Mammoth Cave, by Charles A. Kofoid, Urbana, Ill.

One afternoon session was devoted to a symposium on the use of the microscope by teachers and private workers, in which the topic of Animal Histology was presented by Professor Gage, that of Bacteriology by Professor Bleile, and that of Botany by Professor Bessey. On Thursday evening the Society listened to the annual address of the President, Dr. William C. Krauss, of Buffalo, N. Y., on the subject: 'Some Medico-legal Aspects of Diseased Cerebral Arteries.'

The Treasurer's report showed that the Society closed the year practically even, and that nearly one hundred dollars had been added to the Spencer-Tolles Fund, making it now \$653.36. When the fund

reaches \$1,000 it is expected to make use of the income for an annual prize or grant for microscopical research.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Professor A. M. Bleile, Columbus, Ohio, President.
Professor C. H. Eigenmann, Bloomington, Ind., Vice-President.

Dr. M. A. Veeder, Lyons, N. Y., Vice-President.

J. C. Smith, New Orleans, Treasurer.

Magnus Pflaum, Pittsburg, Pa., Custodian.

As elective members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. W. W. Alleger, Washington, D. C.

Dr. A. D. Kerr, Buffalo, N. Y.

B. D. Myers, Ithaca, N. Y.

The Society was tendered an evening reception by Mr. J. F. Stone, who showed a fine series of views taken on his trip through the Grand Cañon of the Colorado River. The local committee gave visiting members and ladies a trolley ride around the city, besides providing in many other ways for the success of the meeting.

HENRY B. WARD,
Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL
CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
OFFICIAL AGRICULTURAL CHEM-
ISTS, HELD AT SAN FRANCISCO,
JULY 5-7, 1899.

THE sixteenth meeting of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists was held in San Francisco, July 5th to 7th inclusive, under the presidency of Dr. R. C. Kedzie, Chemist of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan. There was a large attendance of agricultural chemists, not only from the Pacific, but also from the Atlantic coast. On account of the early date at which the Association met, making only a little over eight months from the time of the last meeting, it was found that many of the referees and their collaborators had not the time or the opportunity in which to complete the work intrusted to them. Anticipating this difficulty, the Secretary, several weeks in advance of the meet-