

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-

ing, suggested to the referees that in lieu of their regular reports on the results of the prescribed analytical work, or in addition to these, they give a brief historical *résumé* of the progress of the subject assigned to each of them since the formation of the Association.

The Secretary of the Association adopted the suggestion also in his report, giving a historical report of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. In this sketch it was shown that the Association was formed as a result of a meeting called by the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Georgia in 1880. This convention met in the library of the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta, July, 1880, and organized by electing the Hon. J. T. Henderson, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Georgia, President. After several days spent in valuable discussion, the convention adjourned to meet in Boston, with the Association for the Advancement of Science, on the 27th of August, 1880.

The third meeting of this Association was held, in connection with the Association for the Advancement of Science, in Cincinnati, beginning August 18, 1881.

After the adjournment of the Cincinnati meeting the interest in the collaboration of the agricultural chemists seemed to die out. It was only after three years that the fourth meeting was called by Mr. Henderson. This meeting assembled in Atlanta, May 15, 1884. After three days spent in convention work an adjournment was made to meet again in September in Philadelphia, in connection with the Association for the Advancement of Science. It was at this meeting in Philadelphia that the Association assumed its present organization. The meeting was held September 8, 1884, Dr. E. H. Jenkins being elected Chairman. The name, Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, was adopted at this meeting and likewise the constitution,

which has undergone very little change since. The formal organization took place September 9, 1884.

From that time to the present the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists has been under the patronage of the United States Department of Agriculture; its meetings have usually been held in Washington and its Proceedings have been published as bulletins of that Department.

At first the methods of analysis were incorporated with the Proceedings, but later they were collected together under a separate cover, in which form they are now published.

The successive Presidents of the Association have been as follows: S. W. Johnson, H. W. Wiley, E. H. Jenkins, P. E. Chazal, J. A. Myers, M. A. Scovell, G. C. Caldwell, N. T. Lupton, S. M. Babcock, E. B. Voorhees, H. A. Houston, B. F. Ross, Wm. Frear and A. L. Winton.

The President, Dr. Kedzie, gave an interesting address on the subject of foods and food adulterants. This address was read at the joint meeting of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations and the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, immediately following the address of Dr. Armsby, of the first-named Association.

In the regular proceedings of the Association the report of the referee on potash was read by Mr. B. B. Ross, which included an historical account of the methods of analyzing potash since the formation of the Association. Mr. Ross also gave an interesting table showing the results of the comparative analyses of potash samples made during the preceding year.

On the second day a report was made by the referee on soils, Mr. B. L. Hartwell, of Rhode Island, giving the results of comparative studies of the composition of the soils from different parts of the country and by the different methods of determination.

The report of the referee on foods and feeding stuffs, by Thorn Smith, was read by the Secretary, in the absence of the referee and his associate.

The report of the referee on insecticides and fungicides was read by Mr. L. A. Voorhees, the associate referee, and was a very interesting contribution to a branch of chemistry which, so far, has received comparatively little attention.

The report on dairy products was read by the referee, Mr. J. B. Weems, and added much to that branch of agricultural chemistry.

The referee on phosphoric acid, Mr. E. G. Runyan, presented a report summarizing the progress which had been made in the methods of determining phosphoric acid during the fifteen years of the existence of the Association. Especial attention was given to the development of the volumetric method, whereby the processes for estimating phosphoric acid in its usual forms are greatly shortened without any impairment of accuracy.

A similar paper relating to the determination of nitrogen was presented by Mr. F. S. Shiver, the referee on this subject.

The report of the committee on food standards was read by Mr. Frear. The report shows the method in which the work has been divided among the various subcommittees and the character of the subjects assigned to each committee. Great progress has already been made in the study of the data which must be considered in fixing food standards, and, from the amount of work which has already been accomplished, it is evident that in a very short time the Association will be in possession of a series of food standards which are based upon the most reliable data obtainable. The value of such a set of standards, especially from a legal aspect, is extremely great. One great difficulty in the enactment of pure food laws heretofore has been the incompleteness in the standards of

purity. The final result of the work of the Association in this respect will be such as to warrant the acceptance and the adoption of these standards in the municipal, State and national legislation enacted in the interest of pure food.

The officers which have been elected for the ensuing year are :

President: Mr. B. W. Kilgore, North Carolina.

Vice-President: Mr. L. D. Van Slyke, New York.

Secretary: Mr. H. W. Wiley, Washington, D. C.

Additional members of the Executive Committee: Messrs. M. E. Jaffa, California; Arthur Goss, New Mexico.

H. W. WILEY.

A CARD CENTRALBLATT OF PHYSIOLOGY.

IN SCIENCE for September 1, 1899, it is stated "that the Boston Public Library will undertake the printing of a card catalogue of physiology, the cards to contain not only the ordinary bibliographical information, but also brief abstracts of the papers. The plan originated in the physiological department of the Harvard Medical School, and Professor W. T. Porter will be responsible for securing or preparing the abstracts."

This statement is inexact, and if allowed to go uncorrected would be certain to harm a useful undertaking. For this reason it seems best to give at once the details of the proposition now being considered by the Trustees of the Boston Public Library. I am the more concerned to have these details correctly understood, because the proposed method of making the literature of physiology more accessible is not limited to that science, but may be extended to all sciences, the literature of which is sufficiently compact to warrant the publication of a Centralblatt.

The need of rapid and easy access to the stores of science increases daily. The in-