

SECTION OF HORTICULTURE AND BOTANY
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICUL-
TURAL COLLEGES AND EX-
PERIMENT STATIONS.

THE meeting of the Section of Horticulture and Botany of the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations convened in New Haven, Connecticut, November 13th, with S. A. Beach, as Chairman, and Professor P. H. Rolfs, as Secretary. The program was as follows:

1. 'The Function of the Station Botanist,' Dr. George E. Stone, Amherst, Mass.; Discussion led by Professor P. H. Rolfs, Clemson College, S. C.
2. 'Plant Physiology in its Relation to Agriculture and Horticulture,' Albert F. Woods, Chief of Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, Washington, D. C.
3. 'Grasses and Forage Plant Investigation in Experiment Stations and the Division of Agrostology,' Thomas A. Williams, Division of Agrostology, Washington, D. C.
4. Instructional Work. (a) 'Laboratory and Field Work for Students in Horticulture,' Professor E. S. Goff, Madison, Wis. (b) 'The Nature Study Movement,' Professor L. H. Bailey, Ithaca, N. Y. (c) 'The Educational Status of Horticulture,' Professor Fred. W. Card, Kingston, R. I.
5. Variety Testing and Plant Breeding. (a) 'Progress of Variety Testing in Experiment Station Work,' Professor F. William Rane, Durham, N. H. (b) 'What our Experiment Stations have done in Originating Varieties of Plants by Crossing and Selection,' Dr. B. D. Halsted, New Brunswick, N. J. (c) 'The Relation of the Section of Seed and Plant Introduction to Experiment Stations,' Jared G. Smith, Section of Seed and Plant Introduction, Washington, D. C. (d) Discussion led by Dr. Walter T. Swingle, Washington, D. C., and Professor Willet M. Hays, St. Anthony Park, Minn.
6. 'A Vegetable House arranged for Pot Experiments,' Mr. W. E. Britton, Horticulturist, New Haven, Conn.

THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.*

THE Thirty-first Congress of the German Anthropological Society was held in the University town of Halle from September 24-27. In addition to its rich University collections, a special interest is attached to Halle as being

* From *Nature*.

the seat of the oldest German society for encouraging the study of natural science, viz., the Leopoldina-Carolina Academy, which is thus comparable to the Royal Society in this country. To the students of prehistoric archeology, the Prussian province of Saxony is chiefly interesting from the fact of the existence of the copper-mines at Eisleben, some little distance from Halle. The meetings were held under the presidency of Professor Virchow, assisted by Professor Ranke. At the opening session on Monday, September 24th, the presidential address (dealing with the general progress of anthropological study and teaching) was followed by a series of addresses from representatives of the University and town of Halle, of which that of the local secretary, Dr. Förtsch, is particularly noteworthy as containing a sketch of local prehistoric archeology, a field of research in which Dr. Förtsch has been particularly active, and which he has popularized with evident success. Of the subsequent communications to the Congress, the majority which dealt with archeology, there appear to us most worthy of mention the discussion opened by Professor Virchow on the 'Earliest Appearance of the Slavs in Germany,' and the account (illustrated with excellent lantern slides) given by Dr. Birkner (Munich) of the investigation of the graves of the German emperors in Speyer. Professor v. Fritzsche (Halle) and Dr. Lehmann-Nitzsche (La Plata) rendered interesting accounts of discoveries of prehistoric man in Thuringia and in the Argentine respectively, the latter record being still the subject of investigation as regards the exact antiquity (Tertiary period) claimed for the find.

It is a matter of some surprise that the department of physical anthropology should not have been the subject of more papers than were actually presented at Halle, which University claims the two Meckels and Welcker among its former professors of anatomy. The chief contributions to this subject were those of Dr. Schmidt-Monnard (Halle) on the relation between the growth and the weight of children of both sexes; of Dr. Eisler (Halle) on the *Musculus sternalis*; and of Professor Klaatsch (Heidelberg) on the method of research adopted by anatomists, illustrated specifically by obser-

vation on the 'short head' of the Biceps femoris muscle in the mammalian series.

The chief excursion of the Congress was made on Wednesday, September 26th, to Eisleben, where the copper mines already referred to were visited, and demonstrations of copper-smelting were given by representatives of the Mansfield Co. Subsequently the local collection of prehistoric pottery, etc., was inspected.

The concluding session was held on September 27th, when the presidency (for the ensuing year) was assumed by Professor Waldeyer (Berlin). It is a matter of interest to note that the Congress was made the occasion of circulating 'special inquiry' sheets regarding the structure and building of boats in all parts of Germany. General proposals regarding cartography and systematic records for provincial localities were brought forward by Dr. Voss (Berlin).

In addition to the anthropologists already mentioned in the foregoing notes, there were present Freiherr v. Andrian-Werburg (Vienna), Professor Hein (Vienna), Professor Montelius (Stockholm), Professor Koganei (Tokio), and others to the number of about 120.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR SCHIAPARELLI retired on November 1st from the directorship of the Observatory at Milan, where he has been at work for the past forty years. His successor is Professor Celoria, heretofore assistant astronomer at the Observatory.

THE vacancy caused by the death of William Saunders, for the past 38 years superintendent of Experimental Gardens and Grounds, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been filled by the appointment of B. T. Galloway, who in turn has been succeeded by Albert F. Woods as chief of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology.

DR. T. A. GEDDES, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, has been detailed as a special inspector and ordered to Great Britain to inspect cattle intended for importation into the United States. Dr. Geddes sailed on November 7th.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, has received a silver medal

from Queen Wilhelmina, of Holland, as an acknowledgment for the anthropological collection sent by him to the National Museum of Holland.

DR. W. C. RÖNTGEN has written from Munich, under date of October 3d, a letter to the President of Columbia University, of which the following is a translation:

From the Secretary of our University I received yesterday the Barnard Medal awarded to me, together with your esteemed letter of June 13th.

Through the bestowal of this medal by a scientific institution, so illustrious as Columbia University, acting in conjunction with the National Academy of Sciences, my work upon the X-rays has received a recognition which, though in my own estimation greater than it deserved, has nevertheless pleased me very much and will be a spur to further effort.

Permit me, Mr. President, to request you to convey to Columbia University my warmest thanks.

MR. WILLIAM ANDERSON, professor of anatomy to the Royal Academy of Arts, London, died on October 27th at the age of fifty-eight years. He was the author of numerous contributions to anatomy and surgery, and the relation of these sciences to the fine arts. He was for some years director of the Naval Medical College at Tokyo, where he made valuable collections now in the British Museum.

DR. JOSEPH MIK, a distinguished dipterologist, died at Vienna on October 13th at the age of sixty-two years.

SURGEON MAJOR REED and a board of experts will continue the investigation into the propagation of yellow fever by mosquitoes, and an experimental station will be established outside Havana.

THE Secretary of Agriculture has published the following general order: "For the purpose of unifying the work of certain branches of the Department, it is hereby ordered that the Chief of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, the Chief of the Division of Agrostology and the Chief of the Division of Pomology confer upon all matters of general policy and plan with the Superintendent of Experimental Gardens and Grounds, who is hereby designated as Director of Plant Industry. In carrying out this order the several branches of the Department named will maintain their pres-