

The trustees assure you that they fully reciprocate your expressions of personal esteem and of gratitude for the most amicable relations which have always existed between them and you. They earnestly hope that the rest and relief from responsibility to which you look forward will speedily result in your complete restoration to health and in fitness for increased usefulness and happiness, and to this end their good wishes will always follow you.

We remain, dear Mr. Mendenhall, on behalf of the trustees and with high regard, faithfully yours,

STEPHEN SALISBURY,  
DANIEL MERRIMAN,  
C. G. WASHBURN,  
*Committee of Trustees.*

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THOMAS A. WILLIAMS.

WE learn with much regret of the death of Professor Thomas A. Williams, assistant-chief of the Division of Agrostronomy, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and a well known authority on botany and agriculture. He died at his home, near Washington, on December 23d, at the early age of thirty-five years. The high esteem in which Professor Williams was held by his colleagues is expressed in the following resolutions:

It is with feelings of profound sorrow and regret that we, the employees of the Department of Agriculture, learn that death has removed from among us our beloved companion and co-worker, Thomas A. Williams, a classmate and intimate associate of many of our number. His broad knowledge of scientific matters, his keen appreciation of nature, his kind and forbearing disposition has endeared him to all. He was known to his associates as an indefatigable worker and investigator.

*Resolved*, That in the death of Professor Thomas A. Williams, science and agriculture have suffered a great loss, and we, his associates, a dear friend, whose self-forgetfulness in his kindly consideration for the feelings of others, and uniform cheerfulness, often under conditions of severe physical suffering, revealed a lovable character of the highest Christian type. The loss to the Division of Agrostronomy is irreparable. In the performance of his official duties he had proved himself an excellent executive and an organizer of unusual merit and his relations with his associates in office were always such as to command the highest esteem and respect. He never shirked a duty, and however difficult the undertaking, the work performed by him was done most creditably. His loss will be felt most keenly by his associates in the di-

vision, and his memory will remain with them as one whose exemplary life and steadfastness of purpose they should strive to emulate.

*Resolved further*, That we tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss and invoke for them the blessing of the Heavenly Father, who alone can heal the broken heart and give lasting comfort.

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and to the various daily and scientific journals.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WASHINGTON BIOLOGISTS' FIELD CLUB.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 27, 1900.

*Whereas*, We have learned with sorrow and a sense of deep personal loss of the sudden death of our fellow-member, Thomas A. Williams.

*Resolved*, That the Standing Committee of the Washington Biologists' Field Club voices the feeling of every member in paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Williams, whose gentle and kindly disposition, charming good-fellowship and sterling qualities endeared him to every one of us. We recall with pleasant remembrances his interest in the work of the Club and its social relationships, as well as the many delightful hours spent with him in the field. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Williams in this the hour of her great bereavement, which we hope may be lightened by the thought that he passed away in the same peaceful and tranquil spirit in which he had lived.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this tribute be sent to the family of the deceased, and that it be published in *The Plant World*, of which he was an editor, and in *SCIENCE*.

By direction Standing Committee,  
Washington Biologists' Field Club,  
CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD,  
*Chairman.*

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.

THE Society met at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on the 27th and 28th of December. In addition to serving as a center for the important affiliated societies devoted to the natural sciences, the Society as usual had what may be regarded as two scientific sessions. The address of the president, Professor E. B. Wilson, printed above, was given at the annual banquet on Friday evening, and on Thursday afternoon a discussion, which will also be printed in this Journal, took place, its

subject being 'The Attitude of the State towards Scientific Research,' and the speakers being Professor H. F. Osborn, Dr. L. O. Howard, Professor W. B. Clark, Dr. B. T. Galloway and Professor William T. Sedgwick.

The business transacted by the Society included an appropriation of \$50 toward the support of the university table at the Naples Zoological Station, and \$50 to support a table at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl. It was also voted that a committee of five be appointed by the incoming executive committee to select appointments to the university table at Naples, and to raise, if possible, additional funds for its support. A resolution was passed protesting against the duty on wax and other models intended for scientific research in educational institutions.

The most important business transacted by the Society was the consideration of its relations to the Naturalists meeting simultaneously at Chicago. The action taken was as follows: (1) Section 1, of Article IV, which limited the territory for holding meetings, was stricken out of the Constitution and was transferred to the By-Laws. (2) This By-Law was temporarily set aside for the purpose of providing for the meeting of the Society in Chicago in 1901. (3) The Executive Committee was empowered to confer with those interested in the formation of a Western Branch of the Society.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

*President*, Wm. T. Sedgwick; *Vice-Presidents*, L. O. Howard, L. M. Underwood, J. Walter Fewkes; *Secretary*, A. D. Mead; *Treasurer*, M. M. Metcalf; *Executive Committee from Society at Large*, G. H. Parker, J. McK. Cattell.

#### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

A MEETING of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, at one o'clock on December 28th, with the president of the Association, Professor R. S. Woodward, in the chair. Professor C. S. Minot, the president-elect, was also in attendance.

The permanent secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard,

made a report on the affairs of the Association, including the preparations for the meeting next August at Denver. Professor L. G. Carpenter has been in charge of the local arrangements, and has visited the officers of the Association and the leading scientific centers of the Eastern States in the interest of the meeting.

Local committees were appointed in a large number of places throughout the country to forward the interests of the Association in different regions.

A committee was appointed to inquire whether universities and other scientific institutions would set aside a week during the winter for the meetings of scientific and learned societies.

Miss Watson presented her resignation as assistant secretary of the Association, and was elected a life member in recognition of her long and efficient services.

247 new members were elected, which makes the total membership of the Association over 2,000.

The contract made by the Association with The Macmillan Company was presented. It carries out the arrangements made at the New York meeting, in accordance with which SCIENCE is sent free of charge to all members of the Association.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

WE expect to publish in early issues accounts of the scientific proceedings of the societies that met during Christmas week. In the meanwhile it may be stated that Professor W. T. Sedgwick, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been elected president of the American Society of Naturalists; Professor J. S. Kingsley, of Tufts College, president of the American Morphological Society; Professor W. H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, president of the American Society of Bacteriologists; Dr. Erwin F. Smith, U. S. Department of Agriculture, president of the Society of Plant Morphology and Physiology; Dr. Frank Russell, of Harvard University, president of the Folklore Society; Professor Josiah Royce, of Harvard University, president of the American Psychological Association; Professor E. H. Moore, of the University of Chicago, president of the