

Saturday, April 6th. The summer meeting of the Society will be held at Cornell University, beginning on Monday, August 19th. Arrangements are being made for a colloquium in connection with the summer meeting. The committee in charge is now able to announce that Professor E. W. Brown will give a course of six lectures on 'The modern methods of dealing with the problems of dynamics and especially those of celestial mechanics,' consisting mainly of the work of Poincaré in this direction. A second course of lectures will also be arranged.

F. N. COLE,
Secretary.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE first session of the twenty-second general meeting of the American Chemical Society was held in Lewis Institute, Chicago, Ill., on Thursday, December 27, 1900. The session was called to order by President McMurtrie, in the chemical lecture-room of the Institute at 10.15 A.M. Dr. W. R. Smith, chairman of the Chicago section of the Society, was introduced and welcomed the chemists on behalf of the local section. He was followed by Howard S. Taylor, Esq., prosecuting attorney for the city of Chicago, who addressed a few words of welcome on behalf of the city and its citizens. President McMurtrie responded briefly on behalf of the Society, thanking the speakers for the cordial words of welcome.

After a few announcements a paper on 'Correction in the Determination of Urea by the Liebig Method,' was read by J. H. Long. This was followed by another paper by the same author, on 'Preliminary Note on the Optical Rotation of Certain Tartrates in Glycerol.' The latter paper was discussed by Messrs. W. A. Noyes and Long. A paper on 'The Decomposition of Sodium Nitrate by Sulphuric Acid, Part

Two,' by C. W. Volney, was read by the author. Edward Gudeman presented a brief paper on arsenical poisoning, which was discussed by Messrs. Springer, Volney and Gudeman, and Miss Fossler. Two papers by C. L. Parsons, entitled 'A Simple Test for distinguishing Oleomargarine from Butter,' and 'The Use of Metallic Sodium in Blow-pipe Analysis,' were read by the Secretary in the absence of the author.

A photograph of the assembled chemists was taken, and, after a few announcements, the morning session was adjourned. At the close of the session luncheon was served in the building, through the courtesy of the authorities of the Lewis Institute.

The Council of the Society met at the Lewis Institute at 1.30 P.M. Other members of the Society participated in visits to the works of Messrs. Frazer & Chalmers, the Consumers Ice Company, and the Eisendraht tannery of the American Hide and Leather Company.

The evening session of the Society was held in the banquet hall of the Auditorium Hotel. Dr. W. R. Smith, vice-president of the Society and chairman of the Chicago section, presided. The retiring president, Dr. William McMurtrie, delivered an address on 'The Condition, Prospects and Future Educational Requirements of the Chemical Industries.' After a few announcements the session adjourned, and the visiting chemists enjoyed a 'smoker' given by the members of the local section at the Technical Club, 230 South Clark street.

The session of the meeting on Friday was held in the chemical lecture room of the Northwestern University Medical and Pharmacy School, 2421 Dearborn Street. The meeting was called to order by President McMurtrie at 9.30 A.M.

The annual reports of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Librarian were presented in order and read by the Secretary. These reports were accepted by the Society and

ordered placed on file. President McMurtrie made a few remarks regarding the thorough work which had been accomplished by the Librarian during the past year, and on motion of Dr. Hart the thanks of the Society were voted to the Librarian for his successful and faithful services.

The editor presented a brief oral report of his work.

Reports received by the Secretary from F. W. Clarke, chairman of the Committee on Atomic Weights and also chairman of the International Committee on Atomic Weights, were presented by the Secretary in the absence of Mr. Clarke, and were read by title and referred to the Committee on Papers and Publications.

The Secretary reported from the Council that that body had considered the question referred to it by the Society at the New York meeting with reference to the passage of H. R. Bill 104, looking to the adoption and use of the metric system, and had decided to recommend that the Society lay the question on the table. By a vote of the Society the recommendation of the Council was adopted and the question was laid on the table.

The Committee on Standards of Instruments of Measure reported progress through Messrs. Munroe and Linebarger, who urged immediate action on the part of the membership with reference to the bill now pending in Congress to establish a National Standards Bureau.

The Secretary presented a motion urging the appointment of a committee to consider the adoption of a permanent badge or pin by the Society. The motion being seconded, it was moved and carried that the whole matter be laid upon the table.

After some announcements W. A. Noyes presented a paper on 'Synthesis of Derivatives of Dimethyl-cyclopentanone] and of Beta Beta Adipic Acid and of Alpha Beta Beta Tri Methyl Adipic Acid.' Dr. Noyes

also presented a paper by himself and W. M. Blanchard on 'A New Hydroxy Dihydro-campholytic Acid.'

After some other announcements Professor A. B. Prescott presented a paper by B. F. Trowbridge, entitled 'Notes on Sugar Beet Analysis.' This was followed by a paper 'On Hematite Crystals,' by Charles E. Munroe.

The remaining papers on the program were read by titles.

On motion of Dr. Alfred Springer, the thanks of the Society were extended unanimously to the Chicago Local Section; the Local Committee of Arrangements for the meeting, the authorities of the various institutions which had extended courtesies to the Society during its meeting, and the proprietors of the various works which had been thrown open to inspection by the visiting chemists.

The Local Committee made some announcements with reference to a proposed excursion to South Chicago on Saturday morning, and the meeting of the Society was then adjourned. In the afternoon the chemists enjoyed an excursion and visit to the Stock Yards Industries, and at 7 p.m. a subscription dinner was given in the banquet hall of the Auditorium Hotel.

ALBERT C. HALE,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

The Mammals of South Africa. By W. L. SCLATER, M. A., F.Z.S., Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town. Vol. I. Primates, Carnivora and Ungulata. With a map and illustrations. London, R. H. Porter. 1900. Medium 8vo, pp. i-xxx+1-324, with map and 80 text cuts.

Smuts's 'Mammalium Capensium,' published in 1832, a small quarto in Latin, is the first and only attempt to present an account of the mammals of South Africa prior to the work here under notice, of which the first volume has just appeared. Hence the desirability of a good