tion, and teeming with helpful suggestions and plans for the year.

PHILIP F. SCHNEIDER,
Corresponding Secretary.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

AT the meeting of the Academy of Science of March 18, 1901, forty-three persons present, Professor E. H. Keiser delivered an address showing the progress made in the science of chemistry during the nineteenth century. This address will be published in a subsequent number of SCIENCE.

Professor F. E. Nipher exhibited pieces of pine board a foot square, showing the tracks of ball lightning discharges upon them like those formerly described by him in No. 6, Volume X., of the *Transactions* of the Academy. The discharges formerly described had been formed on a photographic film. The balls were very small, and wandered over the plate, leaving a track of metallic silver in their wake. In the present instance the balls were much larger, and they burned a deep channel in the wood. They are formed at the secondary spark gap of a coil. The terminals are pointed and are under control, so that the gap may be changed in length. To start the balls, the pointed terminals are put upon the wood surface, so near that the spark carbonizes somewhat, after which the gap is made longer. These balls travel in either direction, when a direct current is used, with a Wehnelt interrupter. This differs from the results reached on the photographic film with the Holtz machine. There the balls came from the cathode. Even when they originated at isolated points on the film, they traveled away from the cathode.

In the present results, the balls have been caused to originate at isolated points, and two balls have started in opposite directions. Wood which gives little flame shows the phenomenon to best advantage, but the balls preserve their identity and travel slowly along even when completely surrounded by flames of the burning wood.

Three persons were elected to active membership in the Academy.

WILLIAM TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

RESIGNATIONS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGY, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.

OWING to long-continued dissatisfaction with the administration of the Department, the following professors of the faculty of the School of Pedagogy of New York University announce their resignation from the University:

SAMUEL WEIR,
Professor of History of Education and Ethics.
EDWARD F. BUCHNER,
Professor of Analytical Psychology, and Secretary of the Faculty.
CHARLES H. JUDD,
Professor of Experimental Psychology.

THE PROPER NAME OF THE ALPINE CHOUGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I should like to state the reasons why I cannot agree with Mr. W. J. Fox's proposal made in SCIENCE for February 8 (N. S., Vol. XIII., p. 232) to adopt the name '*Monedula pyrrhocorax*' for the Alpine chough. In the first place, as Mr. Fox allows, Hasselquist's '*Iter Palastium*,' being dated 1757, has no claim to recognition, even by those who take Linnæus's tenth edition (1758) as the commencement of zoological nomenclature. It seems to me, therefore, that the mere republication of his names in a German translation of that work in 1762 is not sufficient to give them validity. But what is still more important is that, as Mr. Fox will find, I think, on reading the original description carefully, it is by no means certain that Hasselquist's *Monedula pyrrhocorax* was based on a specimen of the Alpine chough, though it was referred to that species by Linnæus in his edition of 1758. Hasselquist gives 'Lower Egypt' as the place where his *Monedula pyrrhocorax* was discovered, but, according to the best authorities (see Schelley's 'Birds of Egypt,' p. 161), no such bird as the Alpine chough is known in Egypt, and it is indeed a very unlikely species to occur there, though it is found in the high rocky mountains of Algeria. Under these circumstances I maintain that we should not be justified in changing the familiar name *Pyrrhocorax alpinus* to *Monedula pyrrhocorax*.

P. S. SCLATER.

3 HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.,
March 15, 1901.