The first stated paper was by Dr. W. W. Johnston on 'The Ill-health of Charles Darwin,' its nature, cause and its relation to his work. Dr. Johnston presented the results of an extended research into the life of Darwin, showing that up to the age of twenty-seven the philosopher was strong and vigorous; then followed thirty-six years of suffering, and eleven years of improvement to the date of his death. Dr. Johnston stated that the visible beginning of Darwin's intellectual life was during the voyage of the *Beagle*. These five years were characterized by constant strain of overwork, which was continued for several years after the voyage, though his nervous system was exhausted. The break-down of Darwin necessitated a strict regimen, the good results of which appeared in the last decade of his life. Dr. Johnston diagnoses the case as one of neurasthenia brought on by overwork, the symptoms appearing on the voyage of the *Beagle*. The prolongation of Darwin's life was due to the regimen adopted and the unremitting care given him by the members of his family. The paper was discussed by Dr. Frank Baker and Dr. Theo. N. Gill.

Dr. George M. Kober read a paper entitled 'The Progress of Charity Reform in the District of Columbia since 1896.' Dr. Kober's paper was more than locally interesting in showing what may be done by the application of rational methods to the charity problem. These are personal inspection as to the needs of applicants, stimulation to self-help by aid in securing employment, and the encouragement of small savings during times of production, to be drawn upon in times of stress. The progress noted under this system since 1896 is remarkable. Dr. Kober presented statistics showing a great diminution in applicants for aid, a heavy reduction of the expense of conducting the work, and a large increase in the number of those depositing savings.

Walter Hough.

The Academy of Science of St. Louis.

At the meeting of the Academy of Science of St. Louis on April 1, 1901, thirty-three persons present, a memorial notice of the late Judge Nathaniel Holmes, a charter member of the Academy, was presented by a committee composed of Professor Nipher, Dr. Sander and Dr. Baumgarten.

Mr. John S. Thurman delivered an address on the many industrial uses now made of compressed air, illustrating his remarks by apparatus in operation, including electric motor air compressor, compressed air auger, drill, disinfecting atomizer, sculptors' and stone-cutters' tools, carpet renovators, etc., and a set of lantern slides showing the practical uses made of these and other implements and machines operated by means of compressed air.

Dr. Theodore Kodis exhibited, under the microscope, slides illustrating a new method of staining brain tissue, whereby, in four or five days, it has proved possible to prepare single or double stained preparations containing nerve cells with the dendrides of the latter brought out by a direct stain, instead of being differentiated merely as amorphous silhouettes, as is the case with the much slower Golgi process commonly employed. It was stated that the material is treated before sectioning, for about twenty-four hours, with cyanide of mercury, followed for approximately the same length of time by a formaldehyde solution, after which sections are cut, stained with phosphomolybdate hæmatoxylin and, if desired, a contrasting stain, such as one of the aniline greens, and mounted in the usual way.

William Trelease,
Recording Secretary.

The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, University of North Carolina.

The 134th meeting of the club was held on April 9th, when the following papers were read:

'First Aid to the Injured in the United States Army': Professor C. S. Mangum.

'The Work of the Commission for the Examination of the United States Mint': President F. P. Venable.

Chas. Baskerville,
Secretary.

Discussion and Correspondence.

Oil in Texas.

To the Editor of Science:—You doubtless have remarked that in various commercial journals the oil which flows in such

quantities from the Lucas and other wells near Beaumont, Texas, is said to come from Tertiary sands. As Geologist to the State of Louisiana I crossed over into Texas to examine the wells and their surroundings. I found them located on a slight rise of ground extending in a east-westerly direction. The length of this slight elevation is perhaps ¾ mile, width ½ mile, and height about 25 feet above the flat surrounding prairie region. Few or no mounds were observed immediately around this rise, but upon the same they are small, but great in numbers. At the time of my visit there was but one well flowing, others not having reached the oil-bearing bed. Strict secrecy was kept as to the depth of the well. I was requested to pick up no specimens and to leave the premises. However, the shells surreptitiously obtained were sufficient to convince me that the Tertiaries were not completely penetrated; and the 'cap rock of the oil' shown in Beaumont seemed to be of decidedly Cretaceous appearance. The conclusion to be drawn was therefore that the well penetrated possibly a thousand feet of rather recent or newer Tertiary strata and then came upon some portion of a Cretaceous anticlinal fold or ridge. A statement to this effect was given to the New Orleans *Picayune*, March 27, 1901 (which see). To-day we notice that the same paper published, on April 10, a log of the Higgins well. We notice in complete corroboration of our theory the following items:

"1030 ft.—Oil-bearing sand, pebbles and sulphur.

"1040 ft.—Sulphur rock; solid.

"1045 ft.—Oil."

The well is therefore, as supposed, *i. e.*, a repetition of the 'Sulphur Mine' condition of Southwestern Louisiana, buried about twice as deeply beneath the surface by recent formations.

Through the kindness of Mr. Pattillo Higgins, a large holder in this new oil territory, we are assured of a set of samples and shells obtained from the various depths of his well. This will enable us to see just how much of the Tertiaries are missing between the Quaternary and Cretaceous oil beds.

G. D. HARRIS.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, April 13, 1901.

DISCLAIMER NO. 2.

IT is necessary that the undersigned inform the general public that the use made of their names by the 'American College of Sciences,' doing business at Philadelphia, in advertising an 'advanced course in personal magnetism, hypnotism and suggestion by seven distinguished specialists,' is wholly unauthorized and unwarranted. The public is warned against the trick of being thus led to believe that we concur in the statements made in this advertising scheme concerning the scientific facts and the practical uses of hypnotic influences. The undersigned believe that the practice of hypnotism should be restricted to a most guarded application.

Our names and the 'courses' advertised in this 'advanced course' are derived from articles which each of the undersigned was requested, individually, by the 'New York State Publishing Company,' of Rochester, N. Y., to prepare for a scientific exposition of the facts and principles of hypnotism and allied phenomena. The compilation appeared from the press late in 1900. Had the undersigned had any intimation whatsoever that this second and unauthorized use of the articles was to be made, viz., as a part of a course of instruction in the general subject, they would have absolutely refused to contribute to the compilation in the first instance. The responsibility of each of the undersigned goes no farther than the contents of the original article he contributed to the compilation.

The disclaimer is to be taken in accord with the one appearing in SCIENCE, November 30, 1900, p. 850, and in *The Psychological Review*, January, 1901, p. 63. The names here undersigned appear in an advertising sheet circulated by the 'College' which omits the names appearing under the first disclaimer.

Signed EDWARD FRANKLIN BUCHNER,
New York University.
A. KIRSCHMANN,
University of Toronto.
JAMES ROLAND ANGELL,
University of Chicago.
A. M. BLEILE,
Ohio State University.
EDWIN DILLER STARBUCK,
Leland Stanford Junior University.