Finance Committee, John H. Caswell, John H. Hinton, C. A. Post.

Vice-president Kemp was then called to the chair, and the president delivered his annual address, entitled 'The Academy of Sciences.' At its close a vote of thanks was carried, on the motion of Professor E. B. Wilson. The academy then adjourned.

HENRY E. CRAMPTON,
Recording Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTES ON NEGRO ALBINISM.

LAST spring, while engaged in archeology work in Coahoma County, Mississippi, I noticed some negro albino children hoeing in a cotton field. The fact that there was more than one in the family led me to make inquiry which brought out the following facts. The grandfather of these children was an albino. He married a normal negro woman and had three normal sons. All three sons married. Two have had only normal children; but the third, who has been twice married, is the father of fifteen children, four of whom are albinos. The first wife had five normal children and one albino; the second, six normal ones and three albinos. I was unable to learn anything about the ancestry of these women.

The particular interest in the case is that the anomaly reappears in one of three lines of descent in the third generation. According to Mendel's law of heredity, we should not expect it to reappear at all. Yet, if we suppose that albinism was recessive in the mothers of these albino children, the observed result is just what we should expect.

These albinos, two of whom have attained full stature, and others in the vicinity, are noticeably taller and have broader shoulders than their normal fellows. Are these accompanying characters?

WILLIAM C. FARABEE.

NOTE ON MR. FARABEE'S OBSERVATIONS.

MR. FARABEE has kindly shown me the proof of his interesting 'Notes on Negro Albinism,' and generously consents to the publication of the following note with his own.

The point needs emphasizing that albinism in mammals in general is a *recessive character* in the sense of Mendel's law. Mr. Farabee writes as if this fact were generally recognized, but I doubt whether this is so. Last winter in my lectures on heredity, which were attended by Mr. Farabee, I showed from the statistics published by von Guaita in 1900 that albinism in mice is a recessive character. This result has been confirmed by Mr. G. M. Allen, who has been carrying on breeding experiments with mice, under my direction, for the past two years. Some results of Mr. Allen's work have been in manuscript for several months, but their publication has been unavoidably delayed. Meanwhile Bateson (1902), in two recent important papers on heredity, has made the first published recognition of the fact that albinism in mice is a recessive character.

During the last few months I have been able to demonstrate experimentally that albinism is a recessive character likewise in guinea-pigs and rabbits. Mr. Farabee's observations indicate that the same is true also in man. It is probable, therefore, that this is a general law of heredity in all mammals. But Bateson has shown that in certain crosses among poultry white plumage is a *dominant* character; consequently we must apparently limit our generalization for the present to mammals. Yet it should be pointed out that the white breeds of fowls used by Bateson in his experiments are not pure albinos, since the eyes, at least, of white birds are pigmented. Consequently we must exercise caution in generalizing from those experiments.

In the case of negro albinism observed by Mr. Farabee, the result is throughout a Mendelian one, on the hypothesis that albinism is recessive. For the original male albino married to a normal negro woman should have only normal offspring, in whom, however, *the albinic character is recessive.* The recorded observation is three sons, all normal.

Two of the sons, apparently, married wives who were 'pure dominants,' *i. e.*, who were entirely free from the recessive (albinic) character. The theoretical expectation in such cases is that half the offspring will be