

furic acid by repeated recrystallization it loses its water of crystallization readily, becoming much darker, but when a trace of sulfuric acid is still present the salt is very stable, hardly changing at 100°.

A NEW CARBID OF MOLYBDENUM.

IN his book upon the electric furnace Moissan describes a carbid of molybdenum of the formula  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ . This is formed at the highest temperature of the electric furnace, from a mixture of the oxid of molybdenum and carbon. If an excess of carbon is used, it is found in the mass as graphite. Now by working at a somewhat lower temperature, and having in the furnace the metal molybdenum with a little carbon and an excess of aluminum, a new carbid is formed, of the formula  $\text{MoC}$ . It is obtained as a gray crystalline powder, harder than quartz but less hard than the ruby. It is not attacked by water even at 600° and hardly by acids except nitric. It is analogous to the carbid of tungsten,  $\text{WC}$ , and Moissan considers that it is present as a double carbid in molybdenum steel.

J. L. H.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE committee met at Philadelphia, on October 21, at 2 P.M., Messrs. R. S. Woodward, H. L. Fairchild, J. McK. Cattell, Edgar F. Smith and L. O. Howard being present. In the absence of the president, Mr. Woodward took the chair.

The matters referred to the committee by the council at the St. Louis meeting were taken up in order with the following actions:

1. In regard to the disposal of back volumes it was

*Recommended*, That the permanent secretary be authorized to offer sets of the back volumes of the proceedings to libraries which shall be approved by a committee of the association appointed by the president.

2. The amendment to article 34, of the constitution, relating to the abolition of the \$2 fee for fellowship was considered and it was

*Recommended*, That the amendment be adopted.

3. The amendment to article 4 line 2, to read 'The members of at least one year's standing who are professionally engaged in science and have by their labors aided in advancing science,' was considered, and it was unanimously

*Recommended*, That the amendment be not passed.

4. The subject of a possible amendment to article 17 of the constitution was considered and action was postponed.

5. The question of trimming the edges of the journal SCIENCE, which had been referred to the committee was considered and it was

*Recommended*, That the publishers of SCIENCE be requested to announce prominently that cut copies will be sent to members who request it.

The following new matters were then brought up and the following actions taken:

1. The committee on the policy of the association recommends that two or three addresses of the vice-presidents be given on each afternoon of the week of the meeting and that the addresses be followed by a discussion or series of papers that will be of interest to students of other sciences and to the intelligent public. It is recommended that the addresses before Sections A, E and F be given on Wednesday; before Sections B, G and I, on Thursday, and before Sections C, D and H on Friday. The secretaries and sectional committees are requested to prepare suitable programs to follow the addresses of the vice-presidents.

2. The committee on policy of the association requests the permanent secretary to write a letter to each member of the sectional committees calling attention to the fact that the alteration of the constitution making the term of office five years creates a council for each section. It is hoped that each member will if possible be present at the Philadelphia meeting and before, during and after the meeting endeavor to promote the interests of the section and of the sciences included in it. The sectional committees are expected to make the program as strong as possible, inviting mem-

bers or guests to present papers when this seems desirable and to arrange one afternoon meeting the proceedings of which will be of interest to as many members of the association as possible. They should see that all members of their section professionally engaged in science are proposed for election as fellows, and it will be a great service to the association if they will take an active part in increasing the membership of the association, especially among workers in the sciences included in their section. A list of members of sectional committees should be published in the annual volume and each member of the committee should be informed of the fact 60 days before any meeting.

3. The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the permanent secretary and the secretary of the council and the general secretary be requested to nominate as fellows all members of the association who are members of the following national scientific societies which are assumed to have a qualification for membership equal to the qualification for fellowship in the association: American Society of Naturalists, American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Anthropological Association, Association of American Anatomists, Association of American Physicians, Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, Botanical Society of America, Geological Society of America, American Mathematical Society, active members of the American Ornithological Union, American Philosophical Association, American Physical Society, American Physiological Society, American Psychological Association, American Society of Bacteriologists, Society of Plant Morphology and Physiology and the American Zoological Society.

4. The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the policy of the association recommends as members and, if they become members, nominates as fellows, members of the national scientific societies not now members of the association, in cases in which the national scientific society has a qualification for membership equal to that of the qualifications of the association

for fellowship. The following societies are accepted as having such qualifications: (Same list as in resolution 3.)

*Resolved*, That the permanent secretary be requested to communicate this resolution to each member of these societies, not already a member of the association.

5. The following resolution was introduced by Mr. Woodward and after discussion the permanent secretary on his own motion was requested to have it manifolded and sent to all members of the committee on policy of the association, further consideration to be postponed until a meeting of the committee on policy to be held on Tuesday night, December 27, at hotel headquarters in Philadelphia:

*Resolved*, That the committee on policy recommends that the Association continue to hold its principal meeting in winter during convocation week, that this meeting be held as a rule in one of the larger cities of the country, and that efforts be made to secure as full a representation of affiliated societies and as large an attendance of members as possible. The committee recommends that in addition arrangements be made for a summer meeting, not necessarily of the whole association, but of such sections and affiliated societies as care to meet together. The place of meeting would be selected with a view to the summer season and with reference to the geographical distribution of members who could not conveniently attend the winter meeting. The following places of meeting are suggested with a view to discussion, since it is important that provisional arrangements be made well in advance for the convenience of the affiliated societies.

| Winter.  |                | Summer. |             |
|----------|----------------|---------|-------------|
| 1904-05. | Philadelphia.  | 1905.   | Ithaca.     |
| 1905-06. | New Orleans.   | 1906.   | Ann Arbor.  |
| 1906-07. | Boston.        | 1907.   | Berkeley.   |
| 1907-08. | Washington.    | 1908.   | Woods Hole. |
| 1908-09. | Chicago.       | 1909.   | Montreal.   |
| 1909-10. | New York.      | 1910.   | Madison.    |
| 1910-11. | San Francisco. | 1911.   | Bar Harbor. |
| 1911-12. | Baltimore.     | 1912.   | Columbus.   |

Dr. Smith, for the local committee for the coming Philadelphia meeting, made a report of progress on the arrangements for the meet-

ing, concerning which there was a general discussion.

After discussion of certain other matters concerning which no action was taken the committee adjourned at 4 P.M.

L. O. HOWARD,  
*Secretary.*

WASHINGTON,  
October 23, 1904.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A SCIENTIFIC session of the National Academy of Sciences will be held at Columbia University, beginning on Tuesday, November 15, 1904.

DR. CHARLES BASKERVILLE, head of the department of chemistry in the College of the City of New York, has been presented with a loving cup, designed by Tiffany and Company, by his former colleagues and students at the University of North Carolina, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his doctorate.

WE learn from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that Dr. George M. Sternberg, Surgeon-General, U. S. A. (retired), has accepted the position of director of the Wills Mountain Sanatorium, situated near Cumberland, Md. The present efficient house staff will be retained. Dr. Sternberg will spend a considerable portion of his time at the sanatorium, which is a health resort for chronic invalids and convalescents.

THE department of botany, Columbia University, recently held an informal reception in honor of Professor K. Goebel, of the University of Munich, and Professor Hugo de Vries, of the University of Amsterdam, immediately before their departure for their homes.

At the meeting of the International Association of Academies held in London last May the following special committee was appointed 'to consider as to the best methods of making accurate magnetic observations at sea with a view to carrying out a magnetic survey around a parallel of latitude': Professor von Bezold (chairman), Professor Mascart, Professor Pallazzo, Sir Arthur Rücker, Lord Kelvin, Dr. Bauer, Professor Liznar, General Rykathew, Professor Wiechert, Dr. Paulsen.

PROFESSOR PIERANDREA SACCARDO, of the University of Padua, has been elected a corresponding member of the Reale Accademia dei Lincei of Rome.

DR. GEORG GAFFKY, of the University of Giessen, who recently succeeded Dr. Robert Koch as director of the Berlin Institute for Infectious Diseases, has been made an honorary citizen of Giessen in recognition of his services to the public health of the city.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its annual meeting at Cherbourg in 1905. The officers elected at the recent meeting at Grenoble are as follows: *President*, M. Giard, professor of the theory of evolution at the University of Paris and member of the Institute of France; *Vice-President*, M. Lippmann, professor of physics at the University of Paris and member of the Institute of France; *Secretary*, M. Gaston Saugrain, of the Court of Appeals, Paris; *Vice-Secretary*, M. Carlo Bourlet, professor of mathematics at the Lycée St. Louis; *Treasurer*, for four years, M. Emile Galanté.

M. GASTON BONNIER, professor of botany at the University of Paris, has been elected a member of the Royal Microscopical Society of London.

PROFESSOR WM. B. ALWOOD, for sixteen years a member of the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has resigned owing to dissatisfaction with the conditions of scientific work at Blacksburg. He will pursue special investigations at Charlottesville, Va., under direction of the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

At the recent celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of McGill University, Principal Peterson delivered an address in which he sketched the history of the university and the progress it had made. The lecture served also to honor the anniversary of the birthday of the late Hon. James McGill, its founder.

ACCORDING to *The Botanical Gazette*, the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna has granted 4,000 Kroner to Professor Julius Wiesner for his journey to the Yellowstone National Park, where he expects to study the light relations of the flora.