

room, Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 P.M., the following program being rendered:

PROFESSOR WILLIAM CAIN: 'The Theory of Metal or Reinforced Concrete Domes.'

PROFESSOR J. H. PRATT: 'Steel Hardening Metals.'

ALVIN S. WHEELER,  
Recording Secretary.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE BITING POSITION OF ANOPHELES.

IT is a curious fact, as shown by Dr. J. B. Smith's communication in SCIENCE for January 13, 1905, that no observer, from the number cited, has noted the exact position of this mosquito when biting. The writer, in his communication in the December 2, 1904, issue, based his statement upon observations made in 1903 in the northern woods of Minnesota, where a number of individuals of *A. maculipennis* were allowed to fill themselves with blood from the hand, in an endeavor to see how long a time was required by them to digest a full meal (page 170 Eighth Annual Report of the State Entomologist of Minnesota). As I recall the experiment, my impression is that these mosquitoes, when biting, took a position somewhat resembling their resting position, with body and beak more nearly in line, and not at right angles as seen in *Culex*. I shall have to include myself in the army of non-observers to the extent of saying that I am not absolutely sure of this. This was made clear in my communication on page 170 of the issue of SCIENCE referred to, where I said, 'While we may be mistaken, we are under the impression that this genus, in biting, etc.' As Dr. Smith very rightly says in his letter 'I do not understand him (Washburn) to say positively that the figure is inaccurate, only that it had been his belief that the biting position resembled the resting position more nearly.'

As I remember the chart at St. Louis taken from an illustration of Nuttall & Shipley, the biting *Anopheles* is shown with body horizontal. This may be correct, but I note that Dr. Herbert Johnson, who worked on *Anopheles* for Dr. Smith, and who is quoted in the latter's communication, says with reference to

the position of the body of *Anopheles* when biting, 'It is always somewhat oblique.' It was, I believe, this horizontal position with beak at right angles, which caught my eye in looking at Dr. Smith's most complete and excellent exhibit.

At the same time it will possibly occur to many that there may be individual variations in the position of biting mosquitoes, due to different configurations, greater or smaller, of the surface at the immediate point where the insect is working. The time is not far distant when this feature in the activities of *Anopheles* can be put beyond question. In the meantime it is to be hoped that some more observant workers, following Dr. Smith's suggestion, will let us hear from them on this point.

F. L. WASHBURN.

MINNESOTA STATE EXPERIMENT STATION,  
January 19, 1905.

##### UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The registrar of the University of Wisconsin has called my attention to a discrepancy that occurs in the figures furnished by him for the article on 'University Registration Statistics,' published in SCIENCE, December 30, 1904. In former years the short course and dairy students, who do not enter the university until December 1, were reported, whereas they were not included in the 1904 table. Four hundred and thirty-nine short course and dairy students were enrolled on December 1, 1904, and inasmuch as none attended the summer session of 1904, 439 should have been added to the total, giving a grand total for the University of Wisconsin of 3,370 instead of 2,931, and consequently showing a normal increase instead of the decrease represented by the figures in the table. These additional students were reported a fortnight after the appearance of the article, but it seems only fair to call attention to the omission.

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

##### SPECIAL ARTICLES.

##### GENERIC NAMES OF SOFT-SHELLED TURTLES.

In a recent paper 'On the Existing Genera of the Trionychidæ' (*Proc. Amer. Philos.*