

C. Arthur for a continuation of his study of Uredineae.

As a result of long continued conferences between committees of the Botanical Society of America, the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology and the American Mycological Society, and in connection with similar action on the part of the other bodies named, the society adopted a new constitution by which the three societies are federated under the name The Botanical Society of America, details of the federation under the new constitution being placed in the hands of the officers.

The following papers were presented:

J. C. ARTHUR: 'Cultures of Uredineae in 1905.'
G. F. ATKINSON: 'The Development of *Ithyphalus impudicus* (L.) Fries, from France.'

F. E. LLOYD: 'Some Physiological Aspects of Stomata.'

B. E. LIVINGSTON: 'Relative Transpiration.'

G. H. SHULL: 'Comparative Variation and Correlation in Three Mutants and their Parent.'

G. H. SHULL: 'Some Latent Characters of the White Bean.'

D. T. MACDOUGAL: 'Origin and Heredity of Bud Sports.'

D. T. MACDOUGAL: 'The Induction of Mutation by Artificial Stimulation.'

D. T. MACDOUGAL: 'New Mutants of the Evening Primrose.'

W. A. CANNON: 'Topography of the Chlorophyll-apparatus of Some Desert Plants.'

D. S. JOHNSON: 'A New Type of Embryo-sac in *Peperomia*.'

E. C. JEFFREY and ARTHUR HOLLICK: 'Affinities of the Cretaceous Plant Remains referred to the Genera *Dammara* and *Brachyphyllum*.'

B. J. HOWARD: 'The Tannin Cells of Persimmon.' (By invitation.)

V. M. SPALDING: 'Some Problems in Desert Botany.' (By invitation.)

An interesting feature of the meeting was the exhibition of a large number of excellent photographs of European fleshy fungi, made by Professor Atkinson by the aid of a grant made at an earlier meeting of the society.

WILLIAM TRELEASE,
Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS.

THE second annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in New York City, December 26-27, 1905, under the presidency of Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University. The American Geographical Society generously offered the use of its house, at No. 15 West Eighty-first Street, and served luncheon to the members present on both days of the meeting. The annual dinner was held at the Hotel Endicott on the evening of December 26. It will appear from the program as given below that the several phases of geography, particularly the organic, physiographic and educational, were well represented. All the papers here named were read by their authors, and others were read by title. About forty members and invited speakers were present.

W. M. DAVIS, president's address: 'An Inductive Study of the Content of Geography.'

A. H. BROOKS: 'The Influence of Geography on the Exploration and Settlement of Alaska.'

J. WALTER FEWKES: 'The Sun's Influence on the Orientation of Hopi Pueblos.'

MARTHA KRUG GENTHE: 'Valley Towns of Connecticut.'

E. O. HOVEY: 'Geographical Notes on the Western Sierra Madre of Chihuahua.'

A. P. BRIGHAM: 'Lake Loen (Norway) Landslip of January, 1905.'

EMORY R. JOHNSON: 'Political Geography as a University Subject.'

CYRUS C. ADAMS: 'Map-making in the United States.'

CLEVELAND ABBE: 'A Modified Polar Projection Adapted to Dynamic Studies in Meteorology.'

ISAIAH BOWMAN: 'Hogarth's "The Nearer East" in Regional Geography.'

R. M. BROWN: 'Notes on the Mississippi River Floods of 1903 and of Other Years.'

HENRY G. BRYANT: 'Notes on Some Results from a Drift Cask Experiment.'

N. M. FENNEMAN: 'An Example of Flood Plains produced without Floods.'

D. W. JOHNSON: 'Map Studies for Engineering Students; the Classification of Contour Maps on a Physiographic Basis.'

WILLIAM LIBBEY: 'Physical Geography of the Jordan Valley.'

LAWRENCE MARTIN: 'Observations Along the Front of the Rocky Mountains in Montana.'

A. LAWRENCE ROTCH: 'Proofs of the Existence of the Upper Anti-trades.'

R. S. TARR and LAWRENCE MARTIN: 'Observations on the Glaciers and Glaciation of Yakutat Bay, Alaska.'

P. S. SMITH: 'Practical Exercises in Physical Geography.'

F. P. GULLIVER: 'Home Geography.'

J. RUSSELL SMITH: 'The Place of Economic Geography in Education.'

MARTHA KRUG GENTHE: 'Some Remarks on the Use of Topographic Maps in Schools.'

D. W. JOHNSON: 'Drainage Modifications in the Southeastern Appalachians.'

President W. M. Davis presented brief summaries of papers by G. C. Curtis, on 'Glacial Erosion in the New Zealand Alps,' and by E. Huntington, on 'Border Belts of the Tarim Basin, Central Asia.' Professor Davis concluded the program with a paper bearing the title, 'Physiographic Notes on South Africa.' Many of the papers were illustrated with lantern views.

The association does not sustain any regular publication. Through the courtesy of the American Geographical Society, their bulletin for February of this year will be mainly devoted to the proceedings of the meeting.

The officers elected for 1906 are as follows:

President—Cyrus C. Adams.

First Vice-president—Angelo Heilprin.

Second Vice-president—William Libbey.

Secretary and Treasurer—Albert P. Brigham.

Councilors—Three years, W. M. Davis; two years, I. C. Russell; one year, H. C. Cowles.

A. P. B.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

The Life of Reason, or the Phases of Human Progress. By GEORGE SANTAYANA. First volume, 'Introduction and Reason in Common Sense'; second volume, 'Reason in Society.' New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1905.

These two volumes, to be followed by three others upon 'Reason in Art, in Religion and in Science,' afford more than the promise, they afford the potency, of the most significant contribution, made in this generation, to philosophic revision. The volumes evade labeling by any of the nicknames of philosophic schools. Since probably they do this of conscious choice, it is discourteous to attempt a labeling. In calling the view set forth *naturalistic idealism*, I shall, accordingly, be understood to wish to phrase the impression left upon my own mind, and to suggest that impression to the reader, rather than to classify the author. That reason is real, that it is a life, that its life is the significant and animating principle of all distinctively human activity, that is, of commerce, government and social intercourse; of religion, art and science as well as of philosophy; that the life of reason so expressed is one with the reflective principle in its simplest, most direct expressions in common sense, that is, in the perception of objects, the acknowledgment of persons, and the entertaining of ideas—this may well be called idealism, in the classic, if not in the modern epistemologic, sense. But equally marked is Dr. Santayana's insistence that reason is natural and empirical; that it is a direct outgrowth of natural conditions, and that it refines and perfects the nature it expresses; it is not transcendental either in its origin, its objects—the material with which it occupies itself—or in purpose.

Nature shows itself in a life of sentience and of impulse. But some sentient moments mean more, satisfy more, and are at a deeper level, than others. The significance of such moments, persistently entertained, constitutes reason. For so entertained, they afford standards of estimation, of criticism, of construction; they become the starting-points of sustained effort to bring all experiences into harmony with themselves. Vital impulse gives moments of excellence; these excellences, grasped and held, modify vital impulse which now veers in sympathy with the judgments of past and the anticipations of the future. The first two of these are now (Jan., 1906) published.