chemistry during the second and third quarters of the last century.

Following President Remsen's address, short accounts were given of the following honorary members of the society, whose deaths have been recently announced: Mendelejeff, by Professor H. P. Talbot; Roozeboom, by Professor A. A. Noyes; Berthelot, by Professor J. F. Norris; Moissan, by President Remsen.

A vote of thanks was tendered to President Remsen and the other speakers, for the very interesting addresses and the section adjourned at 10:25 P.M. As usual, a light lunch was served immediately after adjournment.

Frank H. Thorp,
Secretary

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE MISLEADING AND THE NON-INFORMING TITLE

To the Editor of Science: There is a matter to which frequent reference has doubtless been made in print, but to which I now recall attention.

I allude to (1) 'the misleading title' and (2) 'the non-informing title.'

1. I need give no particular instance. Entomological magazines are full of 'Entomological Notes in Spain,' 'A Trip to Switzerland,' etc., referring actually to Lepidoptera only; or 'Coleoptera from Moray,' to which a list of the Hemiptera captured is added as a foot-note. These are a great nuisance to the specialist.

2. I take as an example, the *Proc. Linn. Soc.: New South Wales* (2), VI., part 3 (1892), not because the publication is alone in its misdemeanor, but because I have just been referring to it.

There are four papers in the 'list of contents' which convey no idea of even to what class they refer, unless one indeed chances to have heard of the forms previously.

(*a*) 'On the synonymy of *Helix* (*Hadra*) *gulosa* Gould.' On the second page (322), 'Conchology' and 'Mollusca' are mentioned.

(*b*) 'Observations on the Chloræmidæ,' etc. Who, but a student of the worms, knows what a chloræmid is? We find no help till the middle of the first page, when it is mentioned as a chætopod and it is quite likely that some specialists do not know what a chætopod is. It is, however, termed an annelid on the fourth page.

(*c*) 'Descriptions of two new species of *Carenum* from West Australia.' I do not think there is anything in the six pages of this paper to inform us to what class *Carenum* belongs, unless by inspection of the horismology used. I presume, from certain words employed, and from the fact that Mr. Sloane is the author, that it is a carabid beetle.

(*d*) 'Description of a new *Diplomorpha*.'

'Shell,' 'Conchology,' etc., are used, informing us that the genus is molluscan.

The above remarks are made on the supposition that the 'Proceedings' are in front of us; but what is the unlucky wight to do who only sees a list of the contents as an advertisement in some other journal?

The instances cited and the countless other similar ones are a disgrace to the authors and editors concerned. The simple method adopted by, *e. g.*, the Entomological Society of France in their *Bulletin*, is now urged. An abbreviation of the order, or orders, concerned is placed in square brackets after the title, thus 'Note sur *Corœbus fasciatus* Vill. = *bifasciatus* Ol. [Col.] et ses parasites [Hym.]'; so that we know at once that this paper deals with Coleoptera and Hymenoptera. This is sufficient for entomological publications; for those of wider scope, the addition of the class would be useful, thus '[Ins. Col.]' or '[Crust. Dec.].'

There are already troubles more than sufficient, in the path of the present-day worker who strives to keep himself informed of the literature of his chosen subject, in the shape of multifariousness of publications and of languages, false dates of publication, false pagination of separata, and so forth, without his being compelled to resort to Scudder and Waterhouse, often only to find that the generic name desired has been employed three or four times, perhaps in different phyla.

G. W. Kirkaldy

THE DISPUTED ERUPTIONS OF VESUVIUS

To the Editor of Science: It occurs to me that two important bibliographical references