can not find for Professor Tower all the money and leisure it requires, for as many years as he is willing to continue his labors, it will be disgraceful beyond measure. One of the truest tests of the intellectual status of a country is found in its ability to quickly realize the importance of a work of the first class. Since this book came out, I have asked a number of naturalists whether they had read it; and have so far failed to find one who has given it more than superficial attention. Its bulk and the fact that it is ostensibly devoted to a very limited subject—a single genus of beetles—together with its limited circulation, resulting from the mode of publication, have combined to prevent it from receiving due attention, at least in certain quarters where it should have been hailed with delight. If the present notice will serve to show that it is of the first importance to every biologist, whatever his specialty, that will be ample excuse for its length. T. D. A. Cockerell

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

The American School Hygiene Association held its meeting for organization in Washington City, May 6 and 7, 1907, at the Hotel Shoreham. The following program was presented:

Monday, May 6, 3:00 P.M.

Report of Committee on Organization, Arthur T. Cabot, M.D., chairman, fellow Harvard University, Boston.

"Physiological Age and its Influence on School Progress," C. Ward Crampton, M.D., assistant director of physical training, New York City Public Schools.

Monday, 8:00 P.M.

"Medical Inspection of Schools in Massachusetts," Hon. George Martin, LL.D., secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Health.

"Medical Examination in New York City Public Schools," John J. Cronin, M.D., assistant chief medical inspector, Board of Health, New York City.

Discussion opened by Thomas Darlington, M.D., commissioner of health, New York City.

Tuesday, May 7, 3:00 P.M.

"The Requirements of Proper School Furniture," Robert W. Lovett, M.D, Harvard Medical School.

(These papers are to be published by the association.)

Business Meeting.

A constitution and certain resolutions were adopted, of which a few extracts are here given.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION

Article II. The objects of this Association shall be: (*a*) To stimulate research and to promote discussion of the problems of school hygiene. (*b*) To take an active part in movements wisely aiming to improve the hygienic conditions surrounding children during school life.

Article X. The Council shall be empowered to publish its proceedings in a volume or journal, together with special reports, bibliographies and articles that may aid in the objects of this Association.

Article XIV. Any person may become an active member of this Association upon recommendation of two members, election by the council and the payment of one year's dues.

Article XV. Honorary members shall be nominated by the Council and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

Article XVI. The Association shall hold an annual meeting and such other meetings as they shall from time to time determine.

Article XIX. Funds shall be raised by annual dues of three dollars from each active member, and in such manner as shall be approved by the Council.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIRST MEETING

Whereas, The maintenance and development of the health and vigor of school children is a matter of paramount importance, and

Whereas, Experience in all great cities has shown the importance of health inspection; be it

Resolved, That in every city and town adequate provision should be made both for sanitary inspection of schools and for medical inspection, the latter to include not only inspection for contagious diseases, but also of eyes, ears, teeth, throat and nose and of general physical condition.

Whereas, The improvement in the health and of the hygienic conditions surrounding school children depends largely upon the intelligent cooperation, the competency, the interest and the faithfulness of teachers and principals in matters of hygienic importance; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all schools having courses for the training of teachers should give instruction in (*a*) personal and school hygiene and (*b*) the principles and practise of physical training, and that each of these subjects should be given as much time as the major subjects in the course.

Resolved, That examinations for licenses to teach should include questions upon these subjects, and that the answers to such questions should be given equal weight with the answers to questions upon any other subjects.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were:

Hon. President—Theodore Roosevelt.

President—Dr. Henry P. Walcott.

Vice-President—Dr. Arthur T. Cabot.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. Thomas A. Storey.

Members of Council for One Year—John A. Bergström, Ph.D., Elmer E. Brown, Ph.D., W. H. Burnham, Ph.D., John J. Cronin, M.D., Abraham Jacobi, M.D., LL.D., W. H. Maxwell, A.M., LL.D., John H. Musser, M.D., John Ridlon, M.D., Myles Standish, M.D., H. P. Walcott, A.B., M.D.

Members of Council for Two Years—Walter E. Fernald, M.D., C. Harrington, A.B., M.D., C. N. Kendall, A.M., Geo. H. Martin, LL.D., J. H. McCullum, M.D., J. H. McCurdy, M.D., C. A. Moore, Edw. L. Stevens, L.H.D., J. J. Storrow, Edw. Lee Thorndike, Ph.D.

Members of Council for Three Years—Champe S. Andrews, Nicholas M. Butler, A.M., LL.D., Litt.D., Arthur T. Cabot, M.D., Frederick Forcheimer, M.D., W. E. Fischel, M.D., L. H. Gulick, M.D., M.P.E., C. W. Hetherington, Ph.D., Geo. L. Meylan, A.M., M.D., Thos. A. Storey, Ph.D., M.D., William H. Welch, M.D., LL.D.

Henry P. Bowditch, M.D., professor of physiology in the Harvard Medical School was unanimously elected first honorary member of the association.

THOMAS A. STOREY,
Secretary

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"POPULAR" SCIENCE

IN a recent communication,[1] Mrs. Franklin enters a timely protest against the pseudo-science of the popular magazines. Every investigator of color vision must agree with Mrs. Franklin that Dr. Ayers's conception of color-blindness—as presented in the April *Century*—"belongs to the class of the antiquated and the non-scientific." And a more recent paper in the same magazine by Professor Stratton, of the Johns Hopkins University, is equally defective and misleading.

Under the title "Railway Disasters at Night" Professor Stratton discusses a topic which has aroused wide-spread popular interest. The author describes various real and fictitious defects of color vision, and from this sweeping condemnation of the color sense he infers that the "space sense" is more worthy of being entrusted with the responsibility of an accurate discrimination of signals. Accordingly, he recommends the disuse of the present system of railway signaling by means of colored lights, and advocates the substitution of illuminated semaphores which shall appeal to the "space sense." The author's argument centers around the problem of color vision, and it is chiefly to his discussion of this topic that exception must be taken. Most of the errors contained in the paper must be ignored in this brief communication; but I shall venture to call attention to two or three points which may have escaped the notice of the casual reader.

Among the reasons assigned by Professor Stratton for the alleged failure of colored signals is the following startling disclosure:

> The limitations of the normal eye are, however, not yet fully told. Even when it looks with fair accuracy at them, it is always at a disadvantage with regard to colors at night. The eye, grown accustomed to darkness, becomes exceedingly sensitive to faint lights, but it no longer detects their proper colors: "in the dusk all cats are gray." At nightfall a strange kind of second-sight comes in to supplement the vision of common day, now baffled; but this owl-sight of the human eye is able to catch bare light and shade and form, and is blind to the hue of things.

Now if the human retina really were color-blind at night, as Professor Stratton believes, he would undoubtedly have an argument against the present system of night signals; but he would be confronted by the difficulty of explaining how a night express ever reaches its destination in safety—since its safety

[1] SCIENCE, N. S., XXV., May 10, 1907, p. 746.