is not, however, the one noted by Coquillet (*l. c.*) but an entirely new species.

CARLETON R. BALL,
Agronomist in Sorghum Investigations
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES

THE twelfth annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities was held in Washington, D. C., on November 18 and 19, 1907. In this association upward of forty universities are entitled to membership and thirty-nine are active members; thirty-five universities were represented at the meeting. It was one of the most important meetings of the association ever held in point of attendance, bearing of the topics discussed, business transacted, and investigations ordered.

The president's address, "Some Problems of American Universities," gave a comprehensive view of the field of higher education in America and suggested many vital topics for possible future investigation. The question of a "National University" was again to the front and a definite scheme was endorsed for a non-degree-conferring institution that should add to research opportunities several unique practical functions. A committee of the association in conjunction with a committee of the National Educational Association is charged with the duty of presenting the plan to Congress. A committee met the trustees of the Carnegie Foundation and further discussed the claim of the state universities to the benefits of the retirement fund. At this writing the question is still open. Moreover, a committee on "standardizing" American universities was appointed. This question involves the vital and difficult problems of reorganization of higher education and the action of the association may be of far-reaching importance.

Among the many other questions discussed were "Development of Graduate Schools in State Universities" and "Preparation of High School Teachers."

The Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Education attended part of the meetings and evinced a helpful interest in the problems before the association. A reception was given by the president and faculty of George Washington University.

The relation of state universities to the educational interests of each state, the efficiency of the organization and its representative character make the American Association of State Universities a natural leader in discussing some of the many problems of higher education which are pressing for solution.

JAMES H. BAKER,
President of the Association for 1907
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

THE American Society of Agronomy was organized in Chicago on December 31, 1907. According to the constitution, the object of the society shall be the increase and dissemination of knowledge concerning soils and crops and the conditions affecting them.

It is expected that the membership will be composed largely of scientific workers in agronomy. A strong feeling has been prevalent for some time that an opportunity is greatly needed for college and station men to meet and discuss methods of experimentation and instruction in agronomy.

Provision has been made for including as charter members all who join the society before July 1, 1908. Arrangements were also made by which local sections may be established in any part of the country on application of three members of the society. The agricultural colleges may thus have local organizations for discussion of agronomic subjects.

By resolution the society expressed its desire to assist the Society for Promotion of Agricultural Science in bringing about affiliation of all the scientific agricultural organizations.

The officers for the present year are as follows:

President—M. A. Carleton.
First Vice-president—C. P. Bull.
Second Vice-president—J. F. Duggar.
Secretary—T. L. Lyon.
Treasurer—E. G. Montgomery.

Time and place of meeting and form of publication are to be decided later.

T. L. Lyon,
Secretary

Ithaca, N. Y.,
January 10, 1908

THE WORK OF THE MAGNETIC SURVEY YACHT "GALILEE" IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 1907

The early part of the year found the *Galilee* on her way to the Marquesas Islands, having left San Diego, California, on December 22, 1906, with the following scientific personnel on board: W. J. Peters, commander; Messrs. J. C. Pearson and D. C. Sowers, magnetic observers, and Dr. G. Peterson, surgeon and recorder. Captain J. T. Hayes, as heretofore, was the sailing master.

From the Marquesas Islands, the route followed to Shanghai, touched at Tahiti (Society Islands), Apia (Samoan Islands) and Yap (Caroline Islands); Shanghai was reached on May 8. At all of the ports visited special examinations with regard to the distribution of the magnetic elements were made and comparisons secured, whenever possible, between the *Galilee* magnetic instruments and magnetic observatory standards. In addition, magnetic observations were made at sea whenever conditions permitted.

Leaving Shanghai on May 31 course was set for Sitka, Alaska, where the vessel arrived on July 15. Here she was inspected by Dr. L. A. Bauer, and some instrumental changes decided upon in consultation with the commander, Mr. Peters. At this port Mr. J. C. Pearson, who had been continuously on sea duty for a year and a half, was relieved and assigned to important magnetic work in the Yukon territory. In his place on board ship was assigned Mr. P. H. Dike, who in addition to taking part in the regular magnetic observations will likewise attempt special experimental work in atmospheric electricity.

After having completed the required shore operations at Sitka, the *Galilee* set out once more, under the command of Mr. Peters, for a cruise extending this time over both the North and the South Pacific Ocean. Leaving Sitka on August 10 she arrived at Honolulu on August 28. Here again shore magnetic observations were made and instruments were tested and compared at the Coast and Geodetic Survey Magnetic Observatory near Honolulu.

Leaving Honolulu on September 26, the *Galilee* was sighted off Midway Island on October 6 on her way to Jaluit, of the Marshall Islands, and she finally arrived at Lyttleton, near Christchurch, New Zealand, on December 24, having been delayed somewhat in her progress by calms.

It is expected that she will leave the last named port about January 15 for Callao, Peru, where she is due to arrive early in March. From thence she will return to her home port, San Francisco, about May 1. The aggregate length of the cruises of the *Galilee* since August 1, 1905, will then have amounted to about 65,000 miles, embracing the Pacific Ocean from the American coast to the Asiatic coast, and from the Aleutian Islands down to New Zealand.

A complete determination of the three magnetic elements (magnetic declination, magnetic inclination, and intensity of magnetic force) has been secured at sea, on the average, about every 200 or 250 miles along the entire route, besides numerous magnetic results having been secured at ports and islands visited.

Owing to the high efficiency reached by Mr. Peters's party and because of the promptness with which the records of observations are transmitted, the complete reduction of the work can be kept almost apace with the observational work. It is confidently hoped that all the results obtained can be put in published form shortly after the termination of the work at San Francisco next May.

To say nothing of the interesting and important scientific results growing out of this work, mention may be made at present of but one result—one of great practical importance to navigational interests. With the aid of the data furnished the United States Hydrographic Office by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, it was possible to issue last spring a new chart of the "Lines of Equal Magnetic