

summer form of *Ulothrix consociata*; a new genus of marine *Tetrasporaceae*, which he names *Pseudotetraspora*; on the reproduction of a *Gloeocapsa*; on a species of *Dactylococcus*; on the zoospores of *Gomontia polyrrhiza*, and closes with a list of the Myxophyceae (seven species) and *Chlorophyceae* (twenty-one species) of the neighborhood of the biological station at Drontheim, Norway.

W. D. Hoyt's paper on "Periodicity in the Production of the Sexual Cells in *Dictyota dichotoma*" in the *Botanical Gazette* for June, 1907, deserves mention even at this late date, showing that sexual cells are produced at regular monthly intervals, and have a definite relation to the tides.

Professor Doctor D. H. Campbell's "Studies on Some Javanese *Anthocerotaceae*" in the October *Annals of Botany*, 1907, is the first of two interesting papers. A new genus, *Megaceros*, is described. It has a very large sporophyte (9 cm. high), has no stomata, and contains spiral elaters. The second installment (in the January number) is devoted to the morphology and histology of *Dendroceros* and *Notothylas*. In discussing the affinities of the *Anthocerotaceae* the author regards *Notothylas* as "without doubt the simplest and probably the most primitive," and "the larger species of *Anthoceros*, with their highly developed assimilative tissue and perfect stomata as probably to be considered the highest existing form of this peculiar form of sporophyte." He suggests, moreover, that "it will probably be best to regard *Anthocerotaceae* as sufficiently distinct from the true Hepaticae to form a special class, *Anthocerotes*, as was suggested by Howe" eight years ago.

In a paper in the October (1907) *New Phytologist*, "On the Distribution of the Hepaticae and its Significance," Dr. Campbell adduces good reasons for concluding that "the distribution of the existing liverworts indicates that they are ancient forms whose scarcity in a fossil condition is due to their very perishable tissues."

A third paper by the same author, which appeared in the March (1907) *American*

*Naturalist* and entitled "Studies on the *Ophioglossaceae*," is a most helpful one for the fern student. The author still adheres to his hypothesis that *Ophioglossaceae* arose from some form resembling *Anthoceros*.

CHARLES E. BESSEY

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

#### THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

THE third annual meeting of this body, which has been known as the National Conference Committee of the Associations of Colleges and Preparatory Schools and is now permanently organized under the above title, was held at the rooms of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 576 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., Friday, April 17, 1908. The committee is composed of delegates from the following organizations, all of which were represented at this meeting:

The New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools,  
The New England College Entrance Certificate Board,  
The Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland,  
The College Entrance Examination Board,  
The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools,  
The Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Southern States,  
The National Association of State Universities,  
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

A constitution was adopted which defines the purpose of this committee to be to consider standards of admission, matters of common interest to universities, colleges, and secondary schools, and such further questions as may be referred to it. Provision is made that at least one meeting shall be held each year.

Officers to serve for one year were elected as follows: President, President MacLean, of the University of Iowa; Vice-president, Head Master Wilson Farrand, of Newark Academy; and Secretary-Treasurer, Dean Ferry, of Williams College.

A committee of four was appointed to frame a set of units or scale of values for the interpretation of admission requirements and to consider some allied questions. Resolutions were passed advising that work in English and mathematics should be continued through the last school year; recommending that the organizations whose delegates compose the committee be urged to collect data and study the subject of standardizing colleges and universities; and calling the attention of colleges to the fact that lists of accredited schools are now published yearly by the New England College Entrance Certificate Board and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and may be obtained for general reference and use.

FREDERICK C. FERRY,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE University of Illinois has celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding by a memorial convocation. The address given by Professor C. M. Moss was chiefly a tribute to Dr. T. J. Burrill, vice-president of the university and professor of botany, who has been connected with the institution since its first year.

THE *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for May 7 forms a *Festschrift* in honor of Reginald Heber Fitz, M.D., LL.D., Hersey professor of the theory and practise of physic in Harvard University, to celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday, which occurred on May 5.

PROFESSOR C. F. BRACKETT, of Princeton University, who recently retired from the Henry chair of physics, was the guest of honor at a dinner this week, given by the faculty and trustees.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Academy of Medicine his portrait was presented to Dr. Reeve, dean of the medical faculty of the University of Toronto, who was president at the meeting of the British Medical Association held in Toronto in 1906.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. John J. M'Kendrick, professor of physiology in the University of

Glasgow from 1876 to 1896 and now emeritus professor, was presented to the university on commemoration day held on April 22.

COMMEMORATION DAY at the University of Glasgow was observed on April 22, when Professor Gray, the successor of Lord Kelvin in the chair of natural philosophy, delivered an oration on Kelvin's work. Honorary degrees were conferred, including the doctorate of laws on Colonel David Bruce, C.B., of the Royal Army Medical Corps; James Johnston Dobbie, director of the Royal Scottish Museum, and Robert Kidston, the geologist.

At the Institution of Electrical Engineers on April 30 Professor Silvanus P. Thompson gave the first Kelvin memorial lecture, his subject being "The Life and Work of Lord Kelvin." Before the lecture Mr. H. F. Parrish presented the institution with a bust of Benjamin Franklin on behalf of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

THE Fothergillian medal of the London Medical Society has been presented to Sir Almroth Wright, F.R.S.

*Nature* states that at the annual general meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 28, Mr. J. C. Inglis was elected president of the institution. The council has made the following awards for papers read and discussed during the past session: A Telford gold medal to Mr. W. Barclay Parsons (New York); a Watt gold medal to Sir Whately Eliot; George Stephenson gold medals to Sir John Ottley, K.C.I.E., Dr. A. W. Brightmore, and Messrs. J. S. Wilson and W. Gore; Telford premiums to Messrs. F. W. Davis (Darlington), C. R. S. Kirkpatrick (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Hugh T. Ker (Glasgow), G. H. Scott, R. R. Gales (India) and S. H. Ellis.

PROFESSOR H. POINCARÉ, professor of astronomy in the Paris École polytechnique, has retired with the title of honorary professor.

PROFESSOR IRA O. BAKER, for thirty-four years connected with the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Illinois, has been granted by the trustees leave of absence for one year. Professor Baker will devote