

The fact that the sixth part was out or was daily expected would go far to prove that the fifth part had been out about a month. Any way we *know* that it was issued by Nov 6, 1817, and are pretty safe in saying that October was the month of issue, no doubt the first week.

I am glad to have been able to settle this matter for you, but the credit is due to Mr. Fox not to me.

Sincerely yours,

WITMER STONE

The proper technical name for the common eel of eastern North America is *Anguilla rostrata* (Le Sueur), described from specimens taken in Lakes Cayuga and Geneva, New York.

B. A. BEAN

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 20, 1909

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
SECTION L—EDUCATION

THE Baltimore meeting of Section L showed that this new section is growing in strength and usefulness. The section's policy of devoting each session to a single topic with set papers by invited speakers was tried and proved a great success. The section plans to devote itself to a scientific study of educational problems, and has appointed a committee to study the distribution of students in elective courses in college and report at the next meeting. This committee consists of Professor E. L. Thorndike, chairman, and Messrs. J. G. Bowman, George E. Fellows, Abraham Flexner, C. H. Judd, Frederick Keppel and C. R. Mann.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

Vice-president—Dean James E. Russell, Columbia University, New York.

Member of the Council—President Charles S. Howe, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland.

Member of the General Committee—Professor Charles H. Judd, Yale University, New Haven.

Member of the Sectional Committee—Hon. Elmer E. Brown, United States Commissioner of Education, Washington.

Vice-president John Dewey presided at all the meetings. The address of the retiring vice-president, Hon. Elmer E. Brown, dealt with great insight with the subject "World Standards of Education." This paper will be printed in SCIENCE.

The first session of the section was devoted to

a discussion of the United States Bureau of Education by Mr. W. Dawson Johnson, librarian of the bureau; Professor C. E. Elliott, of the State University of Wisconsin, and Mr. E. C. Moore, superintendent of schools, Los Angeles, Cal.

Mr. Johnson showed that the Bureau of Education is, on the one hand, the representative of the nation among the nations of the world; and, on the other hand, the representative of the common interests of the several states of the United States. As the representative of the United States in international intercourse its duty is, first, to study foreign educational experience with a view to selecting that which best fits American needs, and, second, to communicate to foreign countries official information regarding our own educational experience. This international intercourse may take the form of expositions, or congresses, or tours of investigation; it may require the direction of exchanges of professors and teachers between the United States and foreign countries, and of interchanges of students. With the development of international relations the work of the bureau as an office of international communication will become increasingly important, and as American conditions approximate those in European countries its service as a bureau of information regarding European educational experience will become more and more necessary. The duties of the bureau to the state departments are twofold: first, to relieve them of the duty of carrying on scientific investigations which may be carried on more economically or more efficiently by a central bureau; second, to carry on such other investigations as may facilitate and improve the administrative source of the state offices. The need of such work has been recognized in several states by the creation of special educational commissions. It has been recognized by the leading educational institutions and societies also. The growing recognition of the importance of such investigations and the advantages which a central bureau has for carrying them on must lead inevitably to the strengthening of the federal office. At present the bureau is being reorganized with a view to more adequate performance of its duties. The work of reorganization has begun in the library of the bureau. Little progress can, however, be made without larger appropriations by Congress, especially such appropriations as may enable the office to be of greater service to state school officers, educational commissions and legislative committees.

Professor Elliott pointed out that, notwithstanding the evident phenomenal advance which

all grades of education have made during recent years, there continues to exist such a spirit of general unrest and criticism of results as to preclude any feeling of satisfaction or security to serious students and workers in education. In the controversy between the educational progressives and the educational conservatives, society in general has assumed a defensible position and has accepted the program for progress as rapidly as the scientific soundness of that program was demonstrated. Our educational science in the past has been decidedly individualistic and the scientific problems of education have not been analyzed and delimited so as to permit the practical utilization of the collected results of accomplished investigation or the cooperative efforts of individual investigators. The real obstacle to progress has been the lack of coordinated and cooperative research. There is need to-day for scientific insight rather than emotional propaganda. Governmentally the center of gravity is shifting from the *state* to the *nation*. The traditional balance between state and federal activities has been overthrown and the signs of the times indicate the development of many new social functions, the full and adequate performance of which will depend upon the national government. Education, especially in its elementary and secondary stages, is the one subject of vital significance to human welfare, the scientific investigation of which the national government has not generously subsidized and encouraged. The expansion of United States Bureau of Education so as to enable it to serve as the central laboratory for American research in education, undertaking that now not undertaken, coordinating and organizing that now being attempted in a haphazard and incidental manner by individual institutions and societies, and causing it thereby to assume the leadership now so much needed for the real advance of American education seems to offer the greatest opportunity for the new federalism.

Mr. Moore's paper will be printed in full in SCIENCE.

At the second session of the section the topic "American College Education and Life" was treated by Professors Josiah Royce, of Harvard; Wm. North Rice, of Wesleyan; James H. Tufts, of Chicago, and Mr. Abraham Flexner, of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. These papers have been printed in full in SCIENCE for March 12 and 19.

Two joint sessions were held: one with the

American Psychological Association and the other with the American Federation of Teachers of the Mathematical and the Natural Sciences. At the first of these joint sessions the following program was given:

"Psychological Investigations that will help the Educator," by Professor E. A. Kirkpatrick.

"Studies in Number Consciousness," by Professor C. H. Judd.

"The Factors of General Ability," by Professor E. L. Thorndike.

"Homogeneous Content in the Measurement of Memory," by Professor C. E. Seashore.

"The General Effects of Special Practice in Memory," by Professor W. F. Dearborn.

"The Study and Treatment of Retardation," by Professor Lightner Witmer.

The report of this meeting has been published in the Proceedings of the American Psychological Association.

The other joint session with the science teachers was given up to a symposium on "The Problems of Science Teaching" by President Ira Remsen, Johns Hopkins University, and Messrs. Wm. T. Campbell, Boston Latin School; George F. Stradling, Northeast Manual Training High School, Philadelphia; John M. Coulter, The University of Chicago, and Lyman C. Newell, Boston University. The report of this meeting has been published in SCIENCE for April 30, in connection with the report of the American Federation, and also in *School Science and Mathematics* for March and April, 1909.

C. R. MANN,
Secretary

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE fourth meeting of the Entomological Society of America was held in Baltimore, December 30 and 31, 1908, in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. W. M. Wheeler, in the Eastern High School, at 11 A.M., December 31. Dr. Fernald read the report of the committee on nomenclature. Moved and carried that this report be received and printed and discussed one year later, and that this should be the general policy in dealing with these reports. This report is appended. The managing editor made an informal report upon the condition of the *Annals*. The president announced the death during the year of Dr. W. H. Ashmead, an honorary fellow; Dr. James Fletcher,