

of the most important musical organization of Sacramento, California.

The condition had its origin in what the patient described as an attack of "earache." The first indication of abnormal hearing showed itself in an apparent repetition of sounds. This was specially noticeable when the patient spoke, "the effect being that of two people saying the same word, one slightly in advance of the other." Investigation showed that the left ear received the sound slightly in advance of the right. In listening to children the effect of the abnormality was more emphasized than was the case when the voices of adults were heard. A piano test showed that the tone reaching the right ear was half a tone higher in pitch than that of the left. The difference in time and pitch appeared definitely only above *f*, on the piano. All tones below that seemed to reach the two ears simultaneously, but the effect was as if the tone and its sharp had been struck together, or as if one had struck a grace note half a tone removed in pitch in each case. It is a familiar enough fact that a short temporal interval between low tones is less easily distinguished than the same interval between high tones, so that the difference in experience with tones below *f*, and those of higher pitch may be explained without supposing that the ears reacted in a different way for high and for low tones. This may account for the fact that the abnormal effect was emphasized in the case of children's voices. This difference in pitch perception was further tested, by placing a tuning fork first at the right ear and then at the left, with the result that the patient heard first the eighth and then the seventh of the scale.

The sensibility of the right ear for intensity was much impaired when air conduction was used, but it was about normal when bone conduction was employed.

Notes on the medical examination, for which I am indebted to H. L. McGavren, showed a rather acute state of inflammation in the tympanic membrane of the right ear; the left ear was slightly affected in the same way. There was a marked pharyngitis and a less developed laryngitis. Hearing in both

ears was improved to some extent immediately after inflation by the Politzer method. McGavren adds: The entire line of symptoms indicates a middle ear complication rather than any primary affection of the organ of Corti. The fact that with bone conduction the perception of intensity was about normal whilst in the case of air conduction it was much below the normal, would seem to be conclusive on this point.

There are three points in this case which may be of interest from a theoretical point of view: (1) The temporal separation of the sounds of the two ears, respectively, (2) the difference in pitch of the tones from the two ears, (3) the fact that the perception of intensity was about normal with bone conduction, and much below the normal with air conduction.

F. S. WRINCH

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

*THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
DETROIT MEETING*

THE meeting of the American Chemical Society held at Detroit, June 29 to July 2, was more largely attended than any summer meeting in its history and all the members returned to their homes enthusiastic over the work accomplished by the various divisions of the society.

Meetings were held by the Division of Industrial Chemists and Chemical Engineers, the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, the Division of Organic Chemistry, the Division of Fertilizer Chemistry and the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and by the Sections of Biological Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and the Section of Chemical Education. In all 186 papers were presented.

Besides the reading of the various papers the points of special interest were the largely attended meetings of the Division of Industrial Chemists and Chemical Engineers, which are continually growing in enthusiasm and where representatives were present from all parts of the country. Perhaps the "experience meeting" before this division on Friday morning was the most entertaining feature of their program, for many ideas of value were brought out and the discussion was general. It seemed as if almost every member had some interesting fact which bore upon the experience of others and the hour for adjournment was delayed

to the very latest possible moment on account of the keen interest aroused. It is quite noteworthy that the mantle of secrecy which has enveloped so many of the chemical industries and industrial chemists in the past appears to be falling away under this enthusiasm and both the industries and the industrial chemists themselves find that they gain more than they lose thereby. In this connection it might be added that a considerable number of chemical corporations are joining the society as such and are heartily entering into the spirit of progress with which the society is so thoroughly imbued.

The Section of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, which held its first meeting in Baltimore, was surprisingly well attended at Detroit with representative pharmaceutical chemists from various sections of the country. The chief matter of importance before the section was the question of the advisability of forming a Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. After the matter was discussed by almost every one present and many letters were read from pharmaceutical chemists, it was unanimously voted to request the council to establish such a division and a strong organization was formed with Professor A. B. Stevens, of Ann Arbor, as chairman; B. L. Murray, secretary; J. P. Remington, Edw. Kremers and J. M. Francis, executive committee.

The social features of the meeting were many. A complimentary smoker was given by the Society of Detroit Chemists to the visiting chemists on Tuesday evening and a banquet on Thursday night. On Wednesday afternoon the chemists were the guests of Parke, Davis & Co., and visited the works of this well-known firm, were entertained there at dinner and were given an evening boat ride on the Detroit River and Lake St. Claire before returning. Thursday was spent in Ann Arbor as the guests of the regents of the University of Michigan and three papers of general interest were there presented in general session. The rest of the day was turned over to the Section of Chemical Education, where papers dealing with methods of instruction were read. During the day the members visited the new laboratories of the University of Michigan and were entertained at luncheon through the courtesy of the regents.

Many manufacturing works and chemical establishments were opened to the visitors in Detroit, among which may perhaps be especially mentioned Acme White Lead and Color Works, Detroit Salt Company, Hiram Walker & Sons, Hoskins Manufacturing Company and the various

automobile factories which have so greatly added to the industrial life of Detroit.

A steadily increasing number of members of the society are making it a point to attend the meetings and it is interesting to note that more and more chemical corporations are appreciating the value of these meetings to their chemists and are insisting upon their attendance, in most cases bearing all the expenses of the trip.

CHARLES L. PARSONS,
Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE eighth annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science was held at Trinity College, Durham, N. C., on Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, 1909, with twenty-seven members in attendance. Friday afternoon and the whole of Saturday were devoted to the reading of papers. This meeting was the most successful in the history of the academy, both in the matter of attendance (55 per cent. of the members being present) and with regard to the number of papers read.

On Friday night Dean W. P. Few welcomed the academy to Trinity College, and retiring president T. Gilbert Pearson responded on behalf of the academy. Then Mr. Pearson, who is secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies, delivered a lecture, illustrated by stereopticon slides made from photographs taken by himself, on "The Work of the Audubon Society in Preserving Rare Forms of Bird Life." Following this a reception was tendered the members of the academy by the faculty of Trinity College.

In the business meeting on Saturday morning, the report of the secretary-treasurer showed that the academy was in excellent condition both from the standpoint of finance and of activity and enthusiasm of its membership. Six new members were elected.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are:

President—W. C. Coker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Vice-President—W. H. Pegram, Trinity College, Durham, N. C.

Secretary-Treasurer—E. W. Gudger, State Normal College, Greensboro, N. C.

Executive Committee—H. H. Brimley, State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.; C. W. Edwards, Trinity College, Durham, N. C.; W. S. Rankin, Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C.

The following papers were presented: