9:30 Reception of the Academy and guests by President and Mrs. Wilson.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00 A.M. Scientific Session.

1:00 P.M. Luncheon.

The program of papers to be presented was as follows:

"On the Presence of Teeth in *Echinoneus* Van Phels," A. Agassiz, Cambridge, Mass.

"The Geology of South Africa," W. B. Scott, Princeton, N. J.

"Formative Substances in Eggs," E. G. Conklin, Princeton, N. J.

"A Study of Immunity to Self-fertilization in *Ciona*," T. H. Morgan, New York.

"Meteor Crater, Arizona," D. M. Barringer, Philadelphia (introduced by W. B. Scott).

"Derivatives of Tantalum," E. F. Smith, Philadelphia.

"Some New Methods in Electro-analysis," E. F. Smith, Philadelphia.

"The Emission of Electricity by Hot Bodies," O. W. Richardson, Princeton, N. J. (introduced by W. B. Scott).

"The Physiography of Southeastern Alaska," W. M. Davis, Cambridge, Mass.

"The Yale Expedition of 1909 to Palestine and Syria," E. Huntington, New Haven, Conn. (introduced by W. M. Davis).

"The Early Stages of *Acmæa*," E. S. Morse, Salem, Mass.

"The Transmission of Epidemic Poliomyelitis to Monkeys," S. Flexner, New York.

"The Present Status of the Ether," A. G. Webster, Worcester, Mass.

"Examples of Recent Photographs made at the Yerkes Observatory," E. B. Frost, Madison Bay, Wis.

"The Development of *Olenellus*," C. D. Walcott, Washington, D. C.

"Report of Investigations on the Correlation of Tertiary and Quaternary Horizons in Europe and North America," H. F. Osborn, New York.

"The Skull of *Tyrannosaurus*," H. F. Osborn, New York.

"The Fission of Double Stars," H. N. Russell, Princeton, N. J. (introduced by W. B. Scott).

"The First Movements of the Vertebrate Embryo in Relation to the Development of the Nervous System," S. Paton, Princeton, N. J. (introduced by E. G. Conklin).

"The Development of Electric Tissue in Teleost Fishes," U. Dahlgren, Princeton, N. J. (introduced by E. G. Conklin).

"The Relative Sizes of Cells and Nuclei," E. G. Conklin, Princeton, N. J.

"Memoir of Wolcott Gibbs," F. W. Clarke, Washington, D. C.

"Biographical Sketch of C. A. Young," E. B. Frost, Madison Bay, Wis.

"Memoir of W. K. Brooks," E. G. Conklin, Princeton, N. J.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—SECTION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

A MEETING was held, in conjunction with the American Ethnological Society, on October 25, at the American Museum of Natural History, Dr. Fishberg occupying the chair.

Dr. Robert H. Lowie, in discussing "The Age-societies of the Plains Indians," distinguished between the genuine feasting age-societies of old, middle-aged and young men found among the Omaha and the ceremonial age-groups of the Arapaho, Gros Ventre, Blackfoot and Village tribes. The latter do not seem to correspond to fundamental age-divisions, so that some other factor of as yet problematic character must be assumed to have entered in their development. The lecturer insisted that these ceremonial organizations can not be classified on the basis of single characteristics, even though these involve the ostensible conditions of membership, but that it is necessary to isolate well-marked single features and to study their diffusion and the various combinations into which they enter.

Mr. Leo J. Frachtenberg presented some "Notes on Coos Ethnology," in which he stated that the Coos Indians of northwestern Oregon form an independent linguistic stock. Their language may be subdivided into two distinct dialects, called Ha'nîs and Mi'luk. The Mi'luk dialect is extinct, while Ha'nîs is still spoken by about thirty individuals living between Acme and Florence, in Lane County, Oregon. The long intercourse between the Coos Indians and the white settlers has effected a total assimilation of the Red Man. To such an extent is this so that the Coos show no traces whatever of the ancient Indian mode of life. There are, however, a few individuals who still remember phases of this life. The information obtained from these individuals tends to show that the ancient Coos customs and habits varied very little from those prevailing among the other tribes of the Pacific coast. The most important differences may be summed up as fol-

lows: The Coos were a peaceful tribe. They seldom resorted to war and never practised scalping. Flattening of heads was unknown among them, as was likewise tattooing. Their implements and utensils show an absolute lack of decorative art, and their festivals were devoid of any ceremonial significance.

R. S. WOODWORTH,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
NEW YORK SECTION

THE second regular meeting of the session of 1909–10 was held at the Chemists' Club on November 5.

The Wm. H. Nichols medal, awarded annually for the best paper read before the section, was presented to L. H. Baekeland, Sc.D., for "Researches on Bakelite."

The chairman, Dr. Morris Loeb, in presenting the medal, said that aside from increasing the interest in the meetings of the New York Section, the medal afforded the very pleasant and gratifying result of showing appreciation of the work done by a friend and fellow member. He took particular pleasure also in crowning bakelite on the occasion of Dr. Baekeland's twenty-fifth anniversary of his doctorate.

Dr. Baekeland, in reply, expressed his hearty appreciation of the honor extended to him and of the many expressions of friendship and good will accompanying the medal. He described some recent applications of bakelite in veneering and in the manufacture of composition billiard balls which showed greater resiliency than ivory; also a method of running a mixture of the initial condensation product and wood pulp on a Fourdrinier wire, thus obtaining a coarse paper which could be converted by the application of heat and pressure into many useful forms.

The chairman called on Dr. Nichols, who, after speaking in high terms of Dr. Baekeland's work, passed to the subject of the eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry. He regarded it as most important that during the next three years we should produce such papers and research work as to show the American chemists equal to any chemists in the world. Dr. Nichols described the preliminary plans for the congress of 1912, saying that the original committee would be enlarged so as to represent the whole United States, covering every branch and every phase of science; the invitation to meet in America was received with great enthusiasm in London and its popularity is spreading rapidly through the states, affording support and confidence to those in charge of the work.

Mr. Richard H. Gaines read a paper on "Bacterial Activity as a Corrosive Influence in the Soil."

Dr. F. B. Power's paper, "The Chemical Examination of Jalap," was presented in abstract by Dr. R. W. Moore and discussed at length by Dr. Virgil Coblentz.

Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft gave some further results in photo-chemistry under the title "Stannous Chloride and Solarization."

Professor A. A. Breneman gave a résumé of his investigations on "Sewer Explosions in the City of New York."

C. M. JOYCE,
Secretary

THE ELISHA MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE 184th meeting was held in the main lecture room of Chemistry Hall, Wednesday, October 20, 1909, 7:30 P.M. The following papers were presented:

"Yosemite Valley and the Big Trees" (lantern slides), by Professor W. C. Coker.

"The Anatomical Reaction of Nerve Cells in Normal and Excessive Muscular Exertion" (illustrated with colored charts), by Professor D. H. Dolley.

THE 185th meeting was held in the main lecture hall of the Chemistry Building, Tuesday evening, November 9, 1909. Professor H. V. Wilson presented the results of his investigations during the past summer at the Beaufort (N. C.) Fisheries Laboratory upon "The Structure and Regeneration of the Skin in Sponges." Dr. A. S. Wheeler, in his paper on "A New Study of Oceanic Salts," gave an outline of work done the past summer at the same laboratory. Samples of water taken from five points in the harbor were analyzed with unusual care. The differences in composition were found to be exceedingly small. Professor A. H. Patterson, in his paper "The Personal Equation in Judgment of Length, Mass and Time," presented the results of a series of tests upon a class in physics of twenty-two men. The averages of the guesses in most cases were above the true values. The maximum and minimum figures were usually much above and below the correct ones.

A. S. WHEELER,
Recording Secretary