

Section F—Zoology—Professor Jacob Reighard, University of Michigan.

Section G—Botany—Professor R. A. Harper, University of Wisconsin.

Section H—Anthropology and Psychology—Professor Roland B. Dixon, Harvard University.

Section I—Social and Economic Science—The Hon. T. E. Burton, Cleveland, Ohio.

Section K—Physiology and Experimental Medicine—Professor F. G. Novy, University of Michigan.

Section L—Education—President A. Ross Hill, University of Missouri.

Permanent Secretary (for five years)—Dr. L. O. Howard, Washington, D. C.

General Secretary—Professor Frederic E. Clements, University of Minnesota.

Secretary of the Council—Professor John Zeleny, University of Minnesota.

Secretary of the Section of Social and Economic Science—Fred C. Croxton, Washington, D. C.

Treasurer—The selection of a treasurer, to succeed President R. S. Woodward, was referred to the council, with power.

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

The closing general session was held in Huntington Hall at 10 o'clock on the morning of Friday, December 31, 1909; President Jordan presided.

An amendment to article 23 of the constitution, introduced by Mr. Gulliver at the Baltimore meeting, and approved by the council, was adopted. The amended portion of the article reads as follows:

Article 23. Immediately on the organization of a section, there shall be a member or fellow elected by ballot, after open nomination, who, with the vice-president and secretary and the preceding vice-president and secretary and the presidents and secretaries of those affiliated societies which shall be designated by the council and the members or fellows elected by ballot at the four preceding meetings, shall form its sectional committee.

Reports were read by the permanent secretary, the general secretary and the local secretary.

By resolution of the council the president expressed the thanks of the association for the great hospitality, courtesy and privileges extended to the members of the American Association, in connection with the Winnipeg meeting and the western excursion of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

It was resolved that the association express its hearty thanks to the many institutions and individuals of Boston and Cambridge and vicinity who have contributed to make the meetings so successful and enjoyable. The following were mentioned:

The corporation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The corporation of Harvard University.

The Museum of Fine Arts.

The Boston Society of Natural History.

Simmons College.

Boston University.

The local committee, Professor Charles S. Minot, honorary chairman; Professor H. W.

Tyler, chairman of the executive committee.

Ginn and Company, donors of the Guide Books.

Boston Elevated Railway, for special cars.

The ladies' committee.

The citizens, for receptions, teas, musicales, dinners to restricted groups of members, too numerous for individual mention, but none the less sincerely thanked for the most generous hospitality shown throughout the meetings.

DAYTON C. MILLER,
General Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE fifty-eighth regular meeting of the society was held at the Dewey Hotel, December 18, 1909, at eight o'clock p.m., Vice-president W. J. Spillman presiding. The following papers were read:

Peridermium strobiliferum, an Importation from Europe:
Dr. PERLEY SPAULDING, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

The European currant rust has two stages: one as a peridermium on the white pine, the other upon leaves of *Ribes*. The fungus is native in eastern Europe upon *Pinus cembra*, upon which it usually does little damage. Since about 1860 it has attacked *Pinus strobus*, *P. monticola* and *P. lambertiana*, all American species of pines. At present it is distributed throughout Europe, and is causing great damage to white pines in certain sections. In the spring of 1909 it was imported into the United States upon about two and one half million young white pine trees, being distributed in the states of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Lots of trees from the same nursery are also known to have been imported into Ontario and Minnesota. During the past summer a special effort was made to remove the *Ribes*

from the vicinity of these plantations, and, it is believed, successfully, except in portions of Connecticut and in Ontario and Minnesota, which latter are inspected by local authorities. This work was carried on in cooperation with the forestry and plant pathological workers of the states involved. The disease is under control at present. The great problem now is to control or prevent further importations.

Chinese Perennial Wild Rice: C. S. SCOTFIELD,
U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

A plant closely resembling the wild rice of North America was collected about seventy years ago in the Trans-Baikal region of Siberia by a Russian botanist, Turczaninow. At that time the American wild rice was known to European botanists under the name *Hydropyrum esculentum*, and Turczaninow's plant, being regarded as congeneric with it, was named *Hydropyrum latifolium*. When Hackel monographed the grasses for Engler and Prantl, he decided that the Asiatic plant was only a variety of the American species, and, resurrecting the Linnæan name, *Zizania aquatica*, applied it to both.

Certain significant characters indicate that the Asiatic plant is a distinct species from the American. The American plant is an annual, being reproduced by seed which falls off into the water as soon as ripe. The Asiatic plant is perennial, capable of reproduction by rhizomes. There are also some differences in the floral characters, these being most apparent in the form of the floral pedicel and in the length of the awns of the glumes.

The Close Parallel between the Floras of Palestine and of California: Professor A. AARONSON, Haifa, Palestine. (By invitation.)

The speaker first exhibited a series of lantern slides showing the topography of Palestine, and the striking resemblances to that of California. Near the coast in each region is a range of low mountains beyond which lies a long interior valley having a range of higher mountains for its eastern wall. The direction of the prevailing winds being the same, the distribution of rainfall is closely parallel.

Herbarium sheets were then displayed showing numerous specimens of the same species from each region where they occur under very similar climatic and topographic conditions.

The conclusion was drawn that the present unfavorable aspect of agriculture in Palestine is not due so much to sterility of soil and aridity of

climate as to the adverse influence of the form of government which has prevailed there. Under an improved régime it is anticipated that many of the economic plants that now flourish in California may be successfully introduced into Palestine.

In conclusion Professor Aaronsohn presented a second series of lantern slides showing agricultural conditions in Palestine to-day, and the vegetation of the sections visited in his explorations which resulted in the discovery of a wild wheat growing at high altitudes on sterile soil which he considers to be the prototype of our modern cultivated varieties. He found in this wild species a great diversity of types, some forms resembling *Triticum durum* and others *T. polonicum* and *T. monococcum*.

W. W. STOCKBERGER,
Corresponding Secretary

THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE 39th annual meeting of the society was held in the West Hall of George Washington University on December 18, 1909, President Wead in the chair. The meeting was devoted to the presentation of the usual annual reports and the election of officers.

The following officers were duly elected for the ensuing year:

President—R. S. Woodward.

Vice-presidents—C. G. Abbot, A. L. Day, L. A. Fischer, E. B. Rosa.

Treasurer—L. J. Briggs.

Secretaries—R. L. Faris, W. J. Humphreys.

General Committee—W. A. DeCandry, Edgar B. Buckingham, P. G. Nutting, E. G. Fischer, R. A. Harris, W. S. Eichelberger, F. A. Wolff, G. K. Burgess, B. R. Green.

R. L. FARIS,
Secretary

THE WASHINGTON CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE 194th meeting of the society was held at the George Washington University on Thursday evening, December 9, 1909. President Walker presided, the attendance being 55. Dr. Eugene T. Allen resigned as councilor of the American Chemical Society, and W. B. D. Penniman was elected in his stead. The following papers were read: "Estimation of Glycerine in Meat Preparations," by F. C. Cook; "Enzymes and their Relation to Soil Fertility," by M. X. Sullivan; "Detection of Colocynth Seed in Powdered Colocynth," by K. Chestnut.

J. A. LE CLERC,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
NEW YORK SECTION

The third regular meeting of the session of 1909-10 was held at the Chemists' Club on December 17.

The following papers were presented: Morris Loeb and L. R. Morey, "Analyses of some Antique Bronzes"; Chas. Baskerville, "The Action of Radium Salts upon Ruby"; Chas. Baskerville and Reston Stevenson, "Apparatus for Drying Flasks."

Notice was given that members are invited to transmit to the secretary the titles of papers descriptive of new apparatus for presentation at the March meeting, which has been set apart for a symposium on new apparatus and lecture experiments.

C. M. JOYCE,
Secretary

THE ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS
IN THE MIDDLE STATES AND MARYLAND

The thirteenth meeting of the association was held at the College of the City of New York on Saturday, December 4.

The day was given up to the reading of two papers, "Mathematics in the Ethical Culture High School," by Charles B. Walsh, of New York City, and "Some Suggestions in the Teaching of Geometry," by Isaac J. Schwatt, of the University of Pennsylvania, and to the reports of the various committees. The most important reports were the report on the association publication, *The Mathematics Teacher*, by the editor, William H. Metzler, of Syracuse University, and the report of the committee on algebra syllabus, presented by the chairman, Gustave Legras, College of the City of New York.

Dr. Metzler's report showed that *The Mathematics Teacher* was unqualifiedly a success; letters of commendation are frequently received, the subscription list outside of the association is increasing, and the financial side is in surprisingly good condition.

The algebra syllabus was discussed in detail, and after some amendments, was adopted by the association. The committee was continued, with power to make any necessary alterations in the preliminary report, and to make out the syllabus for advanced algebra.

The association passed an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of the editors of *The Mathematics Teacher*, and then elected the following officers for the following year:

President—William H. Metzler, Syracuse University.

Vice-president—Daniel D. Feldman, Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn.

Secretary—Eugene R. Smith, Polytechnic Preparatory School, Brooklyn.

Treasurer—M. Edna Shaw, William Penn High School, Philadelphia.

Members of the Council—(two years) Paul N. Peck, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.; (three years) Howard F. Hart, High School, Montclair, N. J.; Isaac J. Schwatt, University of Pennsylvania.

Editor-in-chief—William H. Metzler.

Associate Editors—Eugene R. Smith; Jonathan T. Rorer, William Penn High School, Philadelphia.

The secretary was instructed to report for the association at the federation meeting in Boston, December 27, and the editors, with the retiring president and the newly elected treasurer, were appointed a committee to confer with other associations, and especially with the federation, on the question of official publications.

EUGENE R. SMITH,
Secretary

POLYTECHNIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL,
BROOKLYN

THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS IN THE MIDDLE
STATES AND MARYLAND

The first meeting for the year 1909-10 of the New York Section of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in the Middle States and Maryland was held Friday evening, November 12, at the High School of Commerce, New York City. The topic for the evening was "Mathematics for Service or for Culture." "Mathematics for Service" was presented by Dr. Ernest R. van Nardroff, principal of the Stuyvesant High School, New York City. Dr. van Nardroff spoke from the experience of an able physicist, and offered a course of study, including the topics of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytical geometry and the calculus, which are useful in physics. "Mathematics for Culture" was presented by Dr. William H. Metzler, professor of mathematics, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y. That Dr. Metzler spoke convincingly, or that the opinion of the meeting was already formed was evidenced by the discussion that followed. This discussion was animated and largely in favor of pure mathematics for its own sake.

LAO G. SIMONS,
Secretary