

short lecture courses. Only thirty reported a regular program of evening observations, twelve some daytime exercises, ten some review of the elements of spectrum analysis as a basis for study of stellar classification, fourteen gave some library work, the rest gave only lectures with no laboratory work by the student. But two institutions, Harvard and Wellesley, reported two hours of daytime laboratory work by the students as in other sciences, and this in addition to evening work.

The numbers in the colleges electing an elementary course would be more significant if they could be reported in percentages, but this was not possible. That only eight universities and colleges reported a hundred and more in the first-year classes, three, 70-100, six, 50-70, and sixty-five mostly less than twenty-five, shows that a very small proportion of college men and women know much about anything off this little planet.

Special interest in the movement was emphatically expressed in more than half the replies, and the hope that the society can in some way bring its influence to bear to secure greater place for elementary astronomy in the programs of study, better methods of teaching elementary classes, and aid the teachers to secure better equipment and adequate assistance.

The leaders of the great research observatories, Harvard, Lick, Yerkes, Mt. Wilson, all expressed sympathy in the objects of the committee and the hope that astronomy would not long lag behind other sciences, taken up in liberal education. Several called attention to the fact that teachers of elementary astronomy should be trained as teachers of physics are trained. Colleges should be urged to understand that an observatory for the training of experts is not the entire equipment necessary for the work of a department of astronomy. Some replies, however, state the issue clearly from the standpoint of the heads of the departments of astronomy. In the choice between using the observatory for instruction or for research, the research problems have the stronger claims. As in other cases, the professor should be provided with adequate assistance.

The committee has brought the facts before the Society and calls for the assistance of the Society in constructive plans. The committee has no plan as yet formulated, but requests that it be continued.

PHILIP FOX,
Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NEW ORLEANS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

ON Tuesday, November 12, there was held at the Public Library the first regular meeting of the newly reorganized New Orleans Academy of Science. The New Orleans Academy of Science was founded in the year 1853, and was a vigorous society until the war, when its activities were suspended. It was revived again for a brief period soon after the war and then again in 1885, when it met regularly for about five years and published several volumes of transactions. Since 1890 the academy has been dormant.

As now reorganized it consists of sixteen sections with chairmen for each section as follows:

Biology and Physiology, Gustav Mann.
Botany and Bacteriology, C. W. Duval.
Zoology, George E. Beyer.
Anthropology and Ethnology, R. B. Bean.
Philology, Robert Sharp.
History and Biography, Pierce Butler.
Education, J. M. Gwinn.
Economics and Sociology, A. P. Howard.
Chemistry, Miss Ann Hero.
Geology and Mineralogy, B. V. B. Dixon.
Astronomy and Mathematics, A. B. Dinwiddie.
Geography and Meteorology, J. A. Lyon.
Engineering, W. H. P. Creighton.
Physics, H. Clo.
Philosophy, W. B. Smith.

The officers of the newly organized academy are:

President—William Benjamin Smith, professor of philosophy, Tulane University of Louisiana.

First Vice-president—Dr. Max Heller.

Second Vice-president—Dr. Isadore Dyer, dean of the medical department, Tulane University of Louisiana.

Treasurer—Dr. A. L. Metz, professor of chemistry, Tulane University of Louisiana.

Secretary—R. S. Cocks, professor of botany, Tulane University of Louisiana.

Librarian and Curator—Dr. Creighton Wellman, professor of tropical medicine and hygiene, including preventive medicine, Tulane University of Louisiana.

At the inauguration meeting there were addresses by the president and the two vice-presidents. The academy will meet hereafter the second Tuesday of each month.

R. S. COCKS,
Secretary