1913–16 inclusive, and indicated the manner in which his expedition and the Crocker Land Expedition will supplement each other's work.

The report of the corresponding secretary showed that the academy had lost by death, during the past year, the following honorary members: Sir George H. Darwin, elected 1899; Sir Joseph D. Hooker, elected 1907; M. Jules Poincaré, elected 1900; Geh. Rath Professor Ferdinand Zirkel, elected 1904.

At the meeting five honorary members were elected, namely: Professor Frank D. Adams, geologist, McGill University; Dr. George E. Hale, astronomer, Mt. Wilson, California; Professor Iliya Metchnikof, biologist and bacteriologist, Pasteur Institute, Paris; Sir John Murray, geographer and oceanographer, Edinburgh; Professor Sho Watasé, zoologist, Imperial University of Tokyo.

According to the report of the recording secretary, the academy held 8 business meetings and 26 sectional meetings during the year ending November 20, 1912, at which 65 stated papers were presented. Four public lectures were given at the American Museum of Natural History, to the members of the academy and its affiliated societies and their friends. The academy now has on its rolls 468 active members, including 22 associate members, 86 fellows, 90 life members and 11 patrons. There are in addition to this number, 20 non-resident members on the rolls. Announcement was made with regret of the loss by death of the following members: Messrs. John Jacob Astor, George Borup, Charles F. Cox, Morris Loeb, William Pennington, Edward Russ, John B. Smith, Isidor Strauss, James Terry and John Weir.

The treasurer's report showed receipts of $7,648.17 and expenditures of $6,092.66 during the fiscal year, including an investment of $975, leaving a cash balance on hand November 30 of $1,555.51.

The librarian reported that the library of the academy had received, through exchange and donation, 313 volumes and 1,670 numbers. Much of the effort made to complete imperfect files has been successful. The library has been open for the consultation of books every week-day from 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M., and the use of the academy's books has increased noticeably.

The editor's report stated that pages 177–263 of Vol. XX. and pages 1–160 of Vol. XXI. had been distributed, and that pages 161–337 of the latter volume were now ready for distribution.

The annual election resulted in the choice of the following officers for the year 1913:

President—Emerson McMillin.

Vice-presidents—J. Edmund Woodman, W. D. Matthew, Charles Lane Poor, W. P. Montague.

Corresponding Secretary—Henry E. Crampton.

Recording Secretary—Edmund Otis Hovey.

Treasurer—Henry L. Doherty.

Librarian—Ralph W. Tower.

Editor—Edmund Otis Hovey.

Councilors (to serve 2 years)—Frederic A. Lucas and R. S. Woodworth.

Members of the Finance Committee—Emerson McMillin, Frederic S. Lee and George F. Kunz.

E. O. HOVEY,
Recording Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE HELMINTHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE thirteenth regular meeting of the society was held at the residence of Dr. Pfender, January 7, 1913, Dr. Pfender acting as host and Dr. Stiles as chairman.

The following were elected as corresponding members: American—C. C. Bass, Samuel T. Darling, W. B. Herms, George R. LaRue, Theobald Smith and Richard P. Strong; foreign—E. Brumpt, J. B. Cleland, Bruno Galli-Valerio, L. Gedoelst, B. Grassi, A. Henry, J. Ch. Huber, C. Janicki, T. H. Johnston, E. Loennberg, A. Mrázek, Wm. Nicoll, S. von Ratz and K. Wollfhuegel.

Mr. Hall presented the following note:

A Spurious Parasite Reported as Trichinella.

In 1905 and 1908 Staeubli published his method of examining blood for blood parasites. The method consists in adding 3 per cent. acetic acid to fresh blood in order to dissolve the erythrocytes and centrifuging to bring down the blood parasites. In his paper in 1908 he states that it will probably be possible to diagnose trichinosis in suspected human cases by examining blood from a finger or ear puncture instead of resorting to muscle excision.

Since then 3 cases of the finding of *Trichinella* by the use of Staeubli's method in human cases have been reported in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. Herrick and Janeway (1909) reported a case from New York City in which *Trichinella* was recovered on two occasions in blood from the arm veins. Their specimens were passed on by Drs. Flexner and Oertel also, and judging from this and the photomicrograph they give, their findings should be accepted. Mercur and Barach

(1910) reported a second case from Pittsburgh. They state that the embryos correspond exactly to the one shown in Herrick and Janeway's illustration and their photomicrograph of a parasite from a gastrocnemius excision in the same patient is certainly one of *Trichinella*. Cross (1910) reported a third case from Minneapolis, in which the embryos are said to have been found in one cubic centimeter of blood from ear puncture. He gives a photomicrograph of one and states that two others "were not quite so clearly marked."

An examination of Cross's photomicrograph shows a straight body of homogeneous structure and quite devoid of internal granular or cellular bodies. Along the sides are two dark lines indicative of a high light refraction. This is probably a plant hair or some such object. The trash also shown in the photo indicates that Cross was not successful in guarding against contamination, as advised by Staeubli, and the presence of plant hairs or similar objects under such conditions is what would be expected. The ratio of the length to the width of the object, which ought not to be greater than 26:1 for a *Trichinella* embryo in the blood, is about 36:1. These facts, taken in connection with Cross's statement that he found two other specimens which were not quite so clearly marked, indicate that Cross was dealing with plant hairs or some similar foreign bodies simulating *Trichinella,* and the case should not be retained as a case of *Trichinella* discovered in the circulating blood. The only clinical symptoms given—facial edema and a 44 per cent. eosinophilia—leave the case open as far as the existence of a trichinosis is concerned.

Dr. Ransom presented the following note:

The Origin of some High Percentages of Cysticercosis in Cattle.

In a note read before this society and published in SCIENCE for April 19, 1912, the writer called attention to some cases of infestation of cattle with *Cysticercus bovis* in which three lots of 251, 70 and 201 head had 25, 41 and 39 head, respectively, infested. These cattle were all from the same locality and an examination of the surroundings showed the following conditions, according to the report of Dr. Eagle, of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry: (1) the intake of the water supply for the cattle troughs was in a small river 75 yards below the outlet of the sewer from the city where the cattle were being fed; (2) in the cattle yard was a stagnant pool which was the only water the cattle had to drink when the regular supply was frozen, as it frequently was during the winter, and this pool received the drainage from an area containing the privies of the establishment where the feeding was done and from part of the city where soil pollution existed; (3) the cattle were fed cotton seed hulls which were more or less contaminated with human feces, as it was a common practise of the employees of the establishment to defecate in the buildings where the hulls were stored. Such surroundings give almost perfect conditions for infestation with *Cysticercus bovis.*

Dr. Stiles presented the following notes on technique and treatment:

In centrifuging feces in fecal examinations, the State Board of Health of Kentucky, instead of using a centrifuge tube, is now using ordinary glass tubing, smoothed off at the ends after cutting to the length of the centrifuge tube. These tubes are corked at both ends. After centrifuging in the tube holder, the upper fluid is poured off and the sediment is taken out at the bottom by the removal of the cork, the cork being used in smearing the feces on the slide. Dr. Stiles has found this a very satisfactory proceeding, but states that on several occasions he has found eggs by the ordinary smear method in cases which were negative by the centrifuge method.

Judging from several cases in which it has been tried, the use of flowers of sulphur seems to be of promise in the treatment of infections with *Strongyloides stercoralis.* It also appears to be successful in the one case of flagellate diarrhea in which it has been used. This was a case with an excessive infestation, the stools being almost pure cultures of the flagellate. In hookworm infection flowers of sulphur has not been found of use. For hookworm the routine treatment which has been found most satisfactory consists in administering the thymol in three doses, instead of two, at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 A.M., followed by coffee at 9:00, Epsom salts at 10:00 and coffee and crackers at 10:30.

In addition to the humanitarian and medical points of view in the prosecution of the hookworm campaign, Dr. Stiles noted that the enormous waste of time, effort and expense in pregnancies that are to lead to children of inhibited development who will die before maturity as a result of hookworm disease, is a point that has made a considerable impression upon southern women.

MAURICE C. HALL,
Secretary