

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SECTION OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

ON December 2, 1912, Professor J. Edmund Woodman, chairman of the section, called the meeting to order at 8:25 P.M., in the west hall of the American Museum of Natural History.

No regular business was transacted, but the whole time given over to a lecture on "The Seismograph and What it Teaches," by Professor Harry Fielding Reid. Professor Reid explained the principles of construction and some of the differences in seismographs, using an extensive assortment of lantern views. The lecture was very instructive, and aroused especial interest because of the recent installation by the New York Academy of Sciences of a new seismograph in the American Museum of Natural History, where the section holds its meetings. At the close of the lecture opportunity was given to inspect the new instrument. About 150 members and visitors were present.

CHARLES P. BERKEY,
Secretary of Section

ON January 6, 1913, immediately following the adjournment of the regular business meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, Professor J. Edmund Woodman, chairman of the section, called the meeting to order in the usual meeting place in the American Museum of Natural History, at 8:25 P.M.

Professor D. W. Johnson delivered a paper on "The Shoreline of Cascumpeque Harbor, Prince Edward Island." After explaining with the aid of blackboard maps and sketches the criteria for distinguishing between real and apparent oscillations of shorelines, Professor Johnson further illustrated the discussion with lantern views, amplified where necessary by means of diagrams thrown on the screen. He concluded that the area under discussion is probably the best example of features normally produced by subsidence of a maturely dissected plain to be found on our Atlantic seaboard. He finds no evidence, however, that indicates subsidence in geologically recent times—that is, within the last 2,000 years. In the questionnaire following, the speaker presented still other evidences strengthening his conclusions as to the duration of stable conditions, and made brief references to other localities along the Atlantic coastline of North America.

The program was concluded by brief notices of important papers given at the meeting of the Geological Society of America, at New Haven,

Conn., December 28–31, 1912. Ten minutes were devoted to each of the groups, paleontology, economic geology and petrology, by Professor A. W. Grabau, Professor James F. Kemp and Charles T. Kirk, respectively. The meeting, though technical, was attended by some fifty persons.

CHARLES T. KIRK,
Secretary of Section

ON February 3, 1913, the chairman of the section, Professor J. Edmund Woodman, called the meeting to order in the west lecture room of the American Museum of Natural History, at 8:30 P.M., and introduced Mr. F. H. Newell, director of the U. S. Reclamation Service. Under the title of "Home-making in the Arid West" the speaker delivered an extremely interesting and instructive lecture on the problems of irrigation in our arid and semi-arid regions. He showed how the United States irrigation engineers must be able to handle a manifold situation. In many instances the determination of flood water possibilities, the areal survey of the project, and the installation of the dam are coupled with such other considerations as soil surveys, building and running a cement plant, constructing and managing a railroad for passenger- as well as freight-traffic, generating and subletting electric power from the flood water spilling over the dams, providing for workmen in isolated settlements—even to furnishing them amusements in the way of motion picture shows—dealing with Indian tribes to the extent of inducing the men to work; all these and other institutions and functions being owned and controlled by the Reclamation Service of the United States government.

To carry out the various projects requires the expenditure of some twelve million dollars annually, or about a million a month. When the score or more of projects are all completed, homes on the farms and in the villages of the arid west will be provided for more than two million families.

The fallacy of dry farming was clearly shown by the loss of about one crop in three through such practise.

The lecture was splendidly illustrated with polychrome slides of very characteristic western views. Owing to unpleasant weather, but 75 persons attended. The audience was further entertained by Director Newell's informal replies to questions from members and visitors after the formal presentation of the subject.

CHARLES T. KIRK