

In reply to some remarks made by members, Dr. Leidy said he could not admit the doctrine of spontaneous generation,¹² but rather modifications in the essential conditions of life favorable to the development of different and always preexisting germs derived from a parent.

It is but natural that these researches should lead to a discussion of the hypothesis of spontaneous generation and the origin of species. On these further researches I should like to dwell, bearing, as they do, upon the germ theory, but I fear I have already taxed your patience, so I must forbear.

From these published researches, in any historical review of the history of bacteriology, the usual accepted date of Davaine's designation of the vegetal nature of these organisms, *Vibrio*, *Spirillum*, 1859, should be moved back at least another decade to 1849.

JOSEPH LEIDY, JR.

*SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE¹*

THE twelfth annual session of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science was held in Kimberley, Cape Province, during the week commencing Monday, July 6, under the presidency of Professor R. Marloth. There was the usual round of festivities and of visits to places of scientific or historic interest. The papers read numbered between forty and fifty. Dr. A. Ogg, professor of physics at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, in his presidential address to Section A, dealt with some of the ideas in physical science which are under discussion at the present time in the light of recent research, and sought to bring under review some of our fundamental notions or principles, having regard to the fact that what mathematicians and

physicists have long considered well established is now being uprooted and replaced by non-Newtonian mechanics based on the principle of relativity. In Section B the presidential address was given by Professor G. H. Stanley, of the Transvaal School of Mines and Technology, whose subject was "A Decade of Metallurgical Progress on the Witwatersrand." The greatest advances during the last ten years, he said, were in improving methods of carrying out the various stages of the extraction processes, the essentials remaining unchanged. In Section C, comprising the biological sciences and agriculture, the presidential address of Professor George Potts, of Grey University College, Bloemfontein, dealt with rural education. An evening discourse was delivered in the Kimberley City Hall by Professor E. H. L. Schwarz, on the Kimberley diamond pipes, the history of their discovery, and their relation to other South African volcanic vents. This lecture, like Professor Marloth's address as president of the association was illustrated by many lantern slides. The numerous slides exhibited by Professor Marloth were all hand colored, and constituted the most excellent collection representative of South African indigenous flora ever exhibited. At the conclusion of the president's address, Dr. Crawford, the association's senior vice-president, handed to him the South Africa medal (instituted by the British Association in 1905 in commemoration of its visit to South Africa during that year) and grant of £50 which had been conferred upon him in recognition of his eminent services to botanical science in South Africa during the last thirty years.

PACIFIC FISHERIES SOCIETY

ON March 11 a meeting of those interested in the upbuilding and perpetuating of the great fisheries of the Pacific slope was held in Seattle, Wash., and it was decided to form a temporary organization of a society to be known as the Pacific Fisheries Society, and to hold a meeting later in the year for the pur-

¹² For experiments in connection with the theory of spontaneous generation, see "Flora and Fauna within Living Animals," Smithsonian Institution, 1851, *et al.*, published lectures before students of medical department, University of Pennsylvania, 1858 and 1859.

¹ Abridged from a report in *Nature*.

pose of making the organization a permanent one. The following officers were elected: *President*, Carl Westerfeld, member California Fish and Game Commission, San Francisco, Cal.; *Vice-president*, Henry O'Malley, Pacific Coast Supt. of Hatcheries for U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Oregon City, Oregon; *Vice-president*, Professor Trevor Kincaid, head of Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.; *Secretary*, John N. Cobb, editor *Pacific Fisherman*, Seattle, Wash., and *Treasurer*, Russell Palmer, Seattle, Wash.

The first annual meeting was held at the University of Washington, Seattle, on June 10-12, when the following papers were read:

Policy of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries with respect to the Pacific Fisheries, by Dr. H. M. Smith, Commissioner of Fisheries.

Establishment of a Fishery School at the University of Washington, by Professor Trevor Kincaid.

Some Neglected Fishery Resources of the Pacific Coast, by John N. Cobb.

Angling and Netting; the Conservation of the Marine Fishes of Southern California, by Dr. Charles F. Holder.

The Nanaimo, British Columbia, Biological Laboratory, by C. McLean Fraser, Director.

Hybridization of Salmon, by Professor Victor E. Smith.

Rearing and Feeding Salmon Fry. Separate papers by Henry O'Malley, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries; W. H. Shebley, California Supt. of Hatcheries; R. E. Clanton, Oregon Supt. of Hatcheries; Stephen Butts, Supt. Willapa State Hatchery, Lebam, Wash., and L. M. Rice, Supt. Chehalis, Wash., Hatchery.

The society decided to retain for another year the officers elected at the March meeting, and in addition the following to serve as an executive committee: Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director Museum California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.; C. McLean Fraser, Director Biological Laboratory, Nanaimo, British Columbia; Dr. Charles F. Holder, Pasadena, California; Leslie H. Darwin, Washington Fish and Game Commissioner, Seattle, Wash.; M. J. Kinney, member Oregon Fish and Game Commission, Portland, Oregon; Ward T. Bower, Pacific

Coast Agent U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Seattle, Wash., and M. D. Baldwin, Esq., member Montana Fish and Game Commission, Kalispell, Montana.

The next annual meeting will be held in San Francisco in 1916, the date to be fixed later.

The society will publish its annual proceedings.

JOHN N. COBB,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

As was announced in last week's issue of SCIENCE the American Chemical Society is unable to hold the meeting which had been planned for Montreal in September. The conditions are explained in the following letter addressed to Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, by Professor R. F. Ruttan, chairman of the Montreal committee:

The declaration of war between Germany and England found me at Metis Beach, 500 miles down the St. Lawrence, playing golf with a feeling of relief that our organization for the meeting was so complete.

My first wire to you was mis-sent by a habitant operator, who did not think the order of initials was of any importance. I am sorry for the delay. I took the first train back to Montreal, arriving this morning, and wired you.

We had a meeting of all the executive committee in town this afternoon, and with profound regret, fully realizing what it meant to you and the society, decided that the meeting could not be made to go in British territory this autumn. I wired you at once.

"Canada is sending the first contingent of 20,000 very soon and a second and third will follow.

"Montrealers feel that we are at war with Germany and Austria, and are behaving as if the enemy were threatening us.

"The harbor, canals, etc., are under martial law. The excursions were off, as the company cancelled our contract, for the steamers for the rapids and harbor.

"No German member of the society would naturally come to British soil and all with German names would be questioned at the boundary. Many are even now turned back. We felt that the ex-