

especially in calling attention to suspected differences; (2) within the genus *Valonia* these differences are not as great as at first indicated, and the genus has greater unity; (3) *Halicystis* is probably not closely related to *Valonia*, but may come of a widely differing ancestral stock, one in which sodium instead of potassium is selectively accumulated. This would further justify placing the genus in another family, the Protosiphonaceae.<sup>6,7</sup>

It is also evident that another genus of these large "cells," new to our Atlantic coast and adapted to direct studies in permeability, will on account of its variation from the others, further increase the comparative value of such studies.

L. R. BLINKS

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

### THE CORDILLERAN SECTION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America, which includes all members of the society resident in the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States, held its twenty-sixth annual meeting on January 28 and 29, 1927, at the University of California in Los Angeles. William J. Miller, chairman of the section, presided. The Pacific Coast Branch of the Paleontological Society of America also met on January 29. The annual dinner was given under the auspices of the Branner Geological Club.

The program, comprising some thirty papers, was varied and interesting. The majority of the papers concern the fields of structural and physiographic geology. Representative titles were: "Origin of the Desert Basins of Southwest United States," by Eliot Blackwelder; "The Dissected Fault Scarp of the Wasatch Range, Utah," by William Morris Davis; "Origin of Normal Faults," by Chester W. Washburne; "Three Important Relief Sustaining Formations of the Southwest," by Robert T. Hill; "Current Geological Investigations in Japan," by T. Wayland Vaughan; "Experiments in Shear-Zone Folding," by Howard W. Kitson; "The Physical Indications of the Bridge Creek Flora," by Ralph W. Chaney; "The Camels of the McKittrick Pleistocene," by John C. Merriam and Chester Stock.

Approximately fourteen fellows of the Geological Society and seventy-five guests, mainly geologists, attended the meetings.

<sup>6</sup> West, G. S., "Algae," Cambridge, 1916, vol. i, pp. 223-4.

<sup>7</sup> Blackman, F. F., and Tansley, A. G., *New Phytologist*, 1902, i, 115.

As an incident probably without precedent in geological meetings in this country, a slight but very distinct earthquake disturbed somewhat the presentation of a paper concerning active faulting. The shock occurred in the midst of a discussion by James P. Fox, of the University of California, of the active Haywards Rift and other recent faults of Central California. It seemed that Nature was protesting, by peculiarly appropriate means, against the investigation and discussion by Inquisitive Man, of one of her normal processes.

JOHN P. BUWALDA,  
Secretary.

### THE UTAH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE twentieth annual meeting of the Utah Academy of Sciences convened at Hotel Newhouse, Salt Lake City, April 8 and 9. The program consisting of twenty-one papers was roughly divided into three sessions, one on Friday evening comprising six papers on research in education, and two sessions on Saturday. The forenoon session was devoted to papers on natural science including agriculture, agronomy and bacteriology. In the afternoon papers on subjects in the physical sciences were read. There were a total of twenty-two papers in all, the heaviest program the academy has had for a number of years.

The sessions were all well attended and the interest was good throughout. The attendance from the education people at the Saturday sessions, however, was noticeably small.

At the business session following the program of papers the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, R. A. Hart, Salt Lake City.

First Vice-President, Dr. Jos. F. Merrill, University of Utah.

Second Vice-President, Dr. Willard Gardner, Utah Agricultural College.

Council: Dr. Bert L. Richards, Utah Agricultural College, Professor O. W. Israelson, Utah Agricultural College, Dr. Vasco M. Tanner, Brigham Young University.

Secretary: Mr. J. Cecil Alter, Salt Lake City.

Twelve new members were added to the academy and five members were advanced to fellowship.

This was the first meeting in many years to be held down town, the previous meetings having been held at the university. The experiment seemed to be successful both in the number attending the different sessions and in the interest shown. The newspaper publicity was better than we usually get, undoubtedly due to the convenience of getting reporters to the meetings.

C. ARTHUR SMITH,  
Secretary.