SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

THE eleventh annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held at the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, from April 9 to 13, 1929, with approximately sixty members, besides many visitors, in attendance. During the three days that were devoted to the presentation of papers there were thirty-eight items presented, including lectures and moving pictures.

During the evening of April 10 the Museum of Zoology tendered the society, together with members of the Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a reception, preceded by an inspection of the museum, its collections and exhibits. The morning of April 11 was devoted to a program of mammalian genetics arranged by Dr. Clarence C. Little, and in the afternoon, one on mammalian parasitology under the direction of Professor G. R. La Rue. During the evening members and their guests attended the annual dinner of the society, the speaker of the evening being the retiring president, Dr. Glover M. Allen.

The program of papers was concluded the evening of April 12 by an illustrated lecture entitled "A Cross-section through the Sudan," by H. E. Anthony, and the following morning was devoted to a tour of the university.

At the directors' and business meeting the following officers of the society were elected for the ensuing year: *President,* Witmer Stone; *vice-presidents,* T. S. Palmer and M. W. Lyon, Jr.; *recording secretary,* H. H. Lane; *corresponding secretary,* A. Brazier Howell; *treasurer,* A. J. Poole, and *editor,* H. H. T. Jackson.

Formal announcement was for the first time made of the completion of the fund that has been raised in commemoration of Joel Asaph Allen. This fund of ten thousand dollars was raised through the able efforts of a committee consisting of Madison Grant, *chairman,* Henry Fairfield Osborn, Childs Frick, George Bird Grinnell and Harold E. Anthony. At this meeting the fund was officially entrusted to the society and a rising vote of thanks was tendered to the committee in token of its successful efforts. The sum will be added to other invested funds of the society and the interest used to defray the expenses of publishing one number per year of the *Journal of Mammalogy* to be designated as the Allen Memorial Number.

The meeting for 1930 will be held, probably during April, at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

A. BRAZIER HOWELL,
Corresponding Secretary

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

A SIMPLIFIED DIGITAL SPHYGMOGRAPH

MANY mechanical devices have been adapted to the recording of the pulse, and some of these have yielded excellent results in the hands of experienced workers. However, when elementary students are confronted with the task of securing records from instruments requiring skilful manipulation and adjustments the efforts are not always encouraging. Even students in advanced classes experience some difficulty when the Dudgeon type sphygmograph is placed in their hands. The Tambour type is perhaps involved in less delicate adjustments but because of extrinsic factors is not all that might be wished. For some years the writer has been using a comparatively simple device which has yielded excellent results and because of its ease of assemblage and its freedom from delicate adjustments is suited to student use generally. In principle it revives the old digital sphygmograph designed by Laularie which was put upon the market in France by Verdin. The chief virtues of the apparatus here described are that it is "foolproof," is easy to assemble, and is inexpensive since it appropriates the Harvard pieces found at hand in most laboratories.

A glance at the accompanying figures will disclose the essential mechanical principles of two levers in series mounted upon typical Harvard adjustable iron

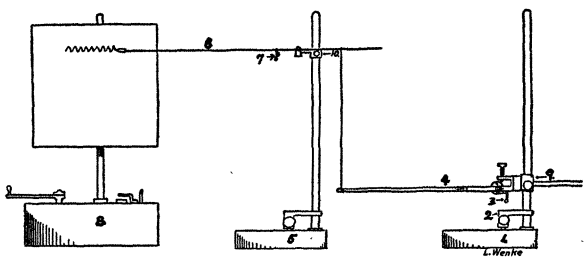

FIG. 1. Detail Assemblage of Digital Sphygmograph.

1 Adjustable Stand	6 Heart Lever Arm
2 Adjusting Screw Arm	7 Shot Counterpoise
3 Nail Pad	8 Harvard Kymograph
4 Muscle Lever Arm	9 and 10 Double Clamp
5 Adjustable Stand	

stands. On stand (1) is a Harvard light muscle lever, with a small piece of No. 14 copper wire looped and soldered to the lever in such a way as to protrude backward and downward below the fulcrum to constitute the nail pad (3). The long lever arm (4) will be recognized as the usual light aluminum writing point which mounted edgeways gives stiffness for the silk thread attachment at its extreme end. A light heart lever of Harvard type is mounted on the second standard (5), with its long aluminum rod supporting a writing point. The silk thread spans the space and connects the long arm of one lever with the short arm of the other, and by adjustment the appropriate