Secretary Corner to suggest our confidence that this work for us shall endure. The Association is not unmindful of his eight years of devoted and successful service."

The concluding session on Saturday afternoon was held jointly with the Physical Anthropologists. There were three valuable papers of some length from each association. Especially noteworthy was Dr. Hrdlička's exhibition of a series of human tibiae having a large and long subcondylar process hitherto unreported, and still unexplained. Dr. Hrdlička remarked that all the major human bones have macroscopic features as yet undescribed. The final paper, by Dr. Edwards, showed how the distribution of the five pigments or color factors of the human skin may be recorded in life, by spectro-photometric measurements.

At the business meeting, 43 new members were received. Officers for 1939 and 1940 were elected as follows: *President,* Stephen W. Ranson; *First Vice-president,* T. Wingate Todd; *Second Vice-president,* Albert Kuntz; for 1939–1943, *Secretary-Treasurer,* Eliot R. Clark; *Members of the Executive Committee,* George W. Corner, Olof Larsell. A cordial invitation in behalf of the Faculties of the three Medical Schools in Boston—Boston University, Harvard and Tufts—was received from Dean Burwell; and accordingly the Anatomists will meet next year at the Harvard Medical School, in Boston, from April 6 to 8, 1939.

FREDERIC T. LEWIS
GEORGE W. CORNER

EASTERN SECTION OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

FOLLOWING the meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington, D. C., the Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America held its thirteenth annual meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Weston College, Weston, Massachusetts, on May 2 and 3, 1938.

The vice-president, Dr. Dean Vannevar Bush, in the name of Dr. K. T. Compton, welcomed the group to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and expressed the hope that the excellent work being done in the field of seismology would very soon obtain a more wide-spread recognition on the part of the general public.

After the usual business routine, the reports of the various permanent and standing committees and the appointment of new committees, the first twelve scientific papers were presented. Following a luncheon in the Walker Memorial Building, as guests of the department of geology, a trip of inspection was made. This included an examination of the differential analyzer and a visit to the electrical engineering department shops, where a much larger and improved type analyzer is being constructed. The seismologists next examined Professor A. C. Ruge's shaking-table equipment and L. B. Slichter's new type portable seismographs. Moving over to Harvard, the Bridgman high pressure apparatus, the Birch equipment for the determination of velocities and a modern portable seismic outfit were successively inspected.

The sessions of May 3 were held at Weston, where after a brief address of welcome by the Reverend R. A. Hewitt, S.J., president of Weston College, the second group of ten papers was read and the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: *Chairman:* H. E. McComb, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Vice-Chairman:* A. C. Ruge, of the Department of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Secretary:* A. J. Westland, S.J., Department of Geophysics, Saint Louis University; *Treasurer:* A. C. Chick, of Providence, R. I.; *Fifth Member of Executive Committee:* E. C. Jacobs, of the University of Vermont.

Weston College was host at the luncheon which terminated the activities of the morning. In the afternoon a visit was made to the elaborate new seismic vault at the college. Four papers were next read concerning the Benioff seismograph, and a round-table discussion followed on the Benioff operation, with Dr. E. A. Hodgson, of the Dominion Observatory, Canada, as chairman. The meeting was brought to a close with a visit to the Harvard Station at Oak Ridge to inspect the seismograph equipment there, and the 61-inch reflecting telescope of the Astronomical Observatory.

A. J. WESTLAND,
Secretary

SPECIAL ARTICLES

VITAMIN A AND ROD-CONE DARK ADAPTATION IN CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER[1]

DISTURBANCES in vision such as nightblindness have long been associated with malnutrition,[2] and in recent years this has been shown to be due specifically to variations in the vitamin A content of the body.[3] Lately, this relationship has received a rational understanding in terms of the association of vitamin A with the chemical structure of visual purple, the light-sensitive substance of the rods.[4]

It has generally been assumed that disturbances in

[1] Reported at the Symposium on Biophysics held at the University of Pennsylvania on November 6, 1937.

[2] H. de Gouvea, *Arch. f. Ophthalm.,* 29 (1): 163, 1883.

[3] L. S. Fridericia and E. Holm, *Am. Jour. Physiol.,* 73: 63, 1925; K. Tansley, *Jour. Physiol.,* 71: 442, 1931.

[4] G. Wald, *Jour. Gen. Physiol.,* 19: 351, 1935.