

"The Action of Magnesium Salts on Internal Respiratory Processes," C. C. Guthrie. (Read by title.)

DEMONSTRATIONS

E. G. Martin: Some apparatus used in the quantitative study of faradic stimuli.

W. B. Cannon: Nerve cells of the myenteric plexus subjected to anemia for different periods.

W. B. Cannon: The influence of tonus on peristalsis.

Y. Henderson: Demonstration of a simple gas meter.

D. R. Joseph and S. J. Meltzer: The mutual antagonism between magnesium and barium.

J. Auer (with P. Lewis): Demonstration of anaphylactic immobilization of the lungs in guinea-pigs.

W. H. Schultz: A simple respiration apparatus.

S. J. Meltzer: A demonstration of the method of respiration by continuous intratracheal insufflation.

In the afternoon of December 29 the members of the society visited the Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory, where demonstrations were given by Dr. F. G. Benedict and assistants.

Owing to the rapidly increasing number of active workers in physiology in this country and the consequent growth of the society, the number of papers presented at the annual meetings has now become so great that their reading and adequate discussion in the time allotted for the meeting is practically impossible. In the hope of remedying this situation, at least in part, it was voted to limit henceforth the time of presentation of all papers to ten minutes, and that abstracts of the papers be furnished the secretary in time for printing before the meetings. It is hoped that with printed abstracts of the papers in the hands of every member attending, less time will be required for their presentation and more time given to the discussions.

An appropriation of \$50 was voted for the fund now being raised by the French physiologists for the erection of a monument to Marey.

The following new members were elected: F. C. Becht, of the University of Chicago, and J. B. Leathes, of the University of Toronto.

The president appointed the following delegates to the International Zoological Congress at Graz: R. G. Harrison and A. J. Carlson; to the International Congress of Physiologists at Vienna: R. Hunt and A. J. Carlson.

Officers for the ensuing year:

President—W. H. Howell.

Secretary—A. J. Carlson.

Treasurer—W. B. Cannon.

Additional Members of the Council—J. Erlanger and F. S. Lee.

A. J. CARLSON,
Secretary

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

At the 442d regular meeting, held February 15, 1910, Miss Rovena Buell, of the American School for Classical Studies at Rome, presented a paper on "Amulets," illustrating her discourse with interesting specimens collected by herself chiefly in Italy. In the making of this collection of Italian amulets the effort has been to bring together those in modern use and their ancient parallels. The sixty specimens may be roughly divided thus:

1. Prophylactics against the evil eye, having in form some relation to a horn and representing phallicism, Diana worship, and defensive symbolism by means of the hand. Examples—a phallus, a tiger's claw, a boar's tusk, a crab's claw, coral and shell horns, lunar crescents, composite horned animals, hands making the sign of the *fico* and the sign of the horns.

2. Amulets that make the sound of metal, hateful to evil spirits. Examples—bells, clashing disks and pendants.

3. Grotesque and ocular guards against malevolence. Examples—masks, a humpback, compositions or stones resembling eyes.

4. Preventives and cures by suggestion. Examples—a fossilized trochus, "eye of Santa Lucia," for eye maladies, a limonite concretion with a loose inner particle, "*pietra gravida*," for miscarriage, fossilized corals, "witch stone," for witch spells, carnelian and jasper, "blood stones," for heart disease and hemorrhages, bronze and silver fish, for female sterility, a comb, for caked breasts (caused by the presence of a witch's hair), a dried sea horse, to increase milk in the breasts, a red woolen sack containing bread crumbs, salt, incense and wheat from a field ripe but unspoiled by the harvester's iron, to guard against the evil eye and witchcraft.

5. Charms pertaining to animals. Examples—badger's hairs, for defense against witches, claw of a paradise bird and a monkey's paw, valid against the evil eye.

6. Roman Catholic amulets. (a) Authorized by

the church. Examples—the Agnus Dei and medal of St. Benedict for divers bodily ills and storms. (b) Unauthorized, but popularly endowed with specific virtues. Examples—the medal of the Three Magi, “witch money,” the medal of St. Anthony, Hermit, for animal protection, St. Joseph’s carpenter’s rule for child protection, the pig of St. Anthony for luck, the medal of St. Andrea Abellino for apoplexy, the coin and the key of the Holy Spirit for infantile convulsions.

Votives. Examples—primitive Etruscan figures of bronze, 800 B.C., ancient Roman bead incised *HER*, terra cotta heads.

In the discussion following the reading of the paper Dr. J. W. Fewkes dwelt on the amulets used by the Indians, while Dr. E. L. Morgan referred to those worn by the negroes of Washington, such as dog’s teeth, etc.

Mr. George R. Stetson followed with a paper on “Some Social Fallacies.”

It was universally accepted that in the millennium of perfect literacy crime would cease. But as mental culture, which by no means includes moral education, increases our sensibility and self-esteem, it also increases our ability to accumulate wealth, to acquire social position, and thus to escape the consequences of our criminal acts. The fallacies in the practise and administration of the law are made apparent in its discrepancies and defects. Decisions should be made and punishments administered without sentiment and be reformatory in character and purpose, taking into consideration the apparent motive, the circumstances of the deed and the culture of the perpetrator. A censure was also expressed against such attorneys who maintain their clients’ cause *per fas et nefas*, so that many criminals are shielded from the penalty of their crimes and society is thus rendered defenceless, as is proved by statistics. Indiscriminate mercy as well as indiscriminate punishment is criminal. The power of pardon which is so frequently abused, should under our form of government be permissible only to the sovereign people in their houses of assembly. The fallacy of absolute human equality. Organic equality is nowhere found, nor does equality of opportunity produce equality in results. Hence there is also no economic equality. Absolute political, social and economic equality would not only check our progress in civilization, but also destroy what we have attained. The fallacy of excessive specialization and division of labor which results in mental and physical deterioration, in unrest and discontent. Fallacies in his-

tory and literature were illustrated by numerous examples. The fallacies of politics, statistics and legislation likewise came in for their share, concluding with a discussion of the fallacies of the missionary and civilizing enterprises.

Remarks on the paper were made by Drs. Folkmar, Casanowicz and Lamb and by Mrs. Sarah S. James.

I. M. CASANOWICZ,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

At a meeting of the society on February 18, a paper entitled “The Tunnel Construction of the Hudson & Manhattan Railroad Company” was read by J. Vipond Davies, chief engineer.

The population of New York and its suburbs in New York and New Jersey has grown to a total of 6,527,000 persons, of which some 1,691,000 reside in the district in New Jersey. The traffic across the ferries of the Hudson River before the tunnels were opened to business was 125,000,000 persons per annum. No other excuse or explanation is needed for the construction of the Hudson River tunnels.

This work involved every type of tunnel construction developed by modern machinery and methods, but more particularly the so-called “shield” method, under which there are provided, (1) for supporting soil, eliminating water and making a safe place for workmen, the use of *air pressure*; (2) for supporting soil and partially removing same, for making a safe place for men, the use of a *hydraulic shield*; (3) for a permanent lining the use of *metal plates*; (4) for putting in place the lining the use of an *erector*; and (5) for waterproofing and protection the use of *cement grout*. All these methods were fully described in detail.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEW YORK SECTION

THE fifth regular meeting of the session of 1909-10 was held at the Chemists’ Club on February 11.

The following papers were presented:

“Nucleic Acids,” P. A. Levene.

“Determination of Sodium Chloride in Milk,” Paul Poetschke.

“Some Colloid-chemical Aspects of Digestion, with Ultra-microscopic Observations,” Jerome Alexander.

“The Fate of Amino Acids in the Organism,” Graham Lusk.

C. M. JOYCE,
Secretary