

## AUTUMN MEETING OF THE ACADEMY.

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION.

[Held in New York November 15 and 16, 1904.]

A scientific session for the reading of papers having been called by the council, the Academy met in Havemeyer Hall of Columbia University, New York City, November 15 and 16, 1904.

Vice-President Rensen presided at the sessions, and the following members were in attendance: Messrs. Billings, Boas, Boss, Bowditch, Brewer, Brooks, Cattell, Chandler (C. F.), Chittenden, Comstock (C. B.), Dutton, Emmons, Hague, Hastings, Mitchell, Morley, Morse, Newcomb, Peirce, Penfield, Prudden, Rensen, Verrill, Walcott, Webster, Wells, and Woodward.

The following papers were presented:

Biographical Memoir of Charles Emerson Beecher. W. H. Dall.

On the Affinities of the Pelagic Tunicates. W. K. Brooks.

The Life History of *Turritopsis*. W. K. Brooks and S. Rittenhouse.

*Phoron's architect*: Its Anatomy, Life History, and Branching Habits. W. K. Brooks and R. P. Cowles.

On the Electrical Resistance of a Vacuum. John Trowbridge.

Psychic Associations in Primitive Culture. Franz Boas.

Time Electrical Impulses. M. I. Pupin. (Introduced by R. S. Woodward.)

The Occurrence of Maxima and Minima of Atmospheric Nucleation in Approximate Coincidence with the Winter and Summer Solstices, respectively. C. Barus.

The System of Magnetic Forces Causing the Secular Variation of the Earth's Magnetism. L. A. Bauer. (Introduced by R. S. Woodward.)

The Influence of Low Proteid Metabolism on the Formation and Excretion of Uric Acid in Man. Russell H. Chittenden.

Note on the Theory of Experiments to Detect the Second Power of the Aberration of Light. Edward W. Morley.

Report of a Repetition of the Michelson-Morley Experiment on the Drift of the Earth through the Luminiferous Ether. Edward W. Morley.

On Topical Geometry. C. S. Peirce.

An Experimental Demonstration of the Formation of Centrosomes de novo. N. Yatsu. (Presented by E. B. Wilson.)

An Analysis of the Phenomena of Organic Polarity. T. H. Morgan. (Introduced by E. B. Wilson.)

Experiments on Prelocalization in the Annelid Ovum. E. B. Wilson.

The Absolute Value of the Acceleration of Gravity Determined by

the Ring-Pendulum Method. C. E. Mendenhall. (Presented by R. S. Woodward.)

The Double Suspension Pendulum for Measuring the Acceleration of Gravity. R. S. Woodward.

Biographical Memoir of Robert Empey Rogers. Edgar F. Smith.

A Determination of the Dispersive Power of the Human Eye. Charles S. Hastings.

The Air in the New York Subway. Charles F. Chandler.

The Genus *Claytonia*: Morphological and Anatomical Studies. Theo. Holm. (Introduced by George L. Goodale.)

## BUSINESS MEETING.

[New York, November 16, 1904.]

A business meeting of the Academy was held November 16, with the vice-president, Mr. Ira Rensen, in the chair.

## PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON SOLAR RESEARCH.

THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

GENTLEMEN: We have the honor to report that immediately after the appointment of the committee by the Academy, plans were made to secure the aid of various societies in Europe and America for the purpose of preparing a general scheme of cooperation in solar research. The societies were invited to appoint committees on solar research, and to send delegates to a conference, which we decided to hold in September at St. Louis, on the occasion of the International Congress of Arts and Sciences. Some societies had already adjourned for the summer when the invitations were received, and therefore could not comply with our request. Nevertheless, the general response was very satisfactory, and the meeting of delegates at St. Louis was a fairly representative one.<sup>a</sup>

We respectfully request the Academy to ask the approval by the International Association of Academies of the proposed plan of cooperation in solar research. It is desirable that such approval should be secured as soon as possible, in order that the work may be well organized before the sun-spot maximum, which may occur next year.

It was the wish of the conference that all of the committees representing societies should be standing committees, in order that the members may frequently discuss the various questions under consideration. We accordingly request that this committee be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE E. HALE, *Chairman*.

<sup>a</sup>The various papers read at the conference on solar research may be found in the *Astrophysical Journal*, Vols. XX-XXI, No. 5, December, 1904 and No. 1, January, 1905.