

At Prof. Atwater's invitation, forty members made the trip to Middletown to inspect his calorimeter.

Another theme of interest was the new anæsthetic, chlorotone, described by Prof. T. B. Aldrich of the University of Michigan. It is a solid and taken internally. Its properties and the best method of administering it are not yet known.

Most of the papers were quite technical, such as "On the phenylcarbamate esters of epinephrin. Those who presented papers were: Prof. L. B. Mendel, '91, of Yale, and H. C. Jackson, Yale '96 S.; Prof. W. J. Gies, Yale '94, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and A. N. Richards, Yale '97; Prof. Gies and W. D. Cutler, Yale '99; Prof. T. Hough, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston; Prof. J. Loeb, Chicago University; Prof. S. J. Meltzer, the College of the City of New York; Prof. W. T. Porter, Harvard Medical School; Prof. E. T. Reichert, the University of Pennsylvania; Prof. B. Moore, Yale Medical School; Prof. R. Hunt, Johns Hopkins; Prof. J. J. Abel, Johns Hopkins; Prof. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School; Prof. W. H. Howell, Johns Hopkins; Prof. R. H. Chittenden, Director of the Sheffield Scientific School, and Yandel Henderson, Yale '95, and Prof. Chittenden and A. C. Eustis, Yale '99 S.

#### THE PSYCHOLOGISTS—A PRODIGY.

The most interesting feature of the meetings of the American Psychological Association, which met in the Psychological Laboratory and Osborn Hall, was the exhibition, by Profs. Lindley and Bryan of Indiana University, of a new arithmetical prodigy, William Griffith, a young man, 19 years old. He was heard of recently by these professors in a small Indiana town, and, though having had only a common school education, is found to be the most rapid arithmetical calculator living. In fact he is one of the most wonderful persons of his kind, because, unlike others, he is able to describe the processes through which his mind acts. He has carried further for himself the same development which arithmetical science has passed through in its history, viz., an abridgement of operations. For instance, the multiplication of a number of three figures by another similar number required over 300 operations in the system of Roman numerals. It requires about 25 distinct operations in the system of Arabic numerals. Griffith does it in 2 or 3 operations. Some of his methods are well known in algebra, but he never studied that subject. Some of them are improvements of the methods described in books on "Lighting Calculation." Many of them are unique. His enormous memory helps him greatly. He knows the multiplication table up to 130, and the powers and roots of many numbers. All these facts were the more readily believed when the young man was presented in person and questioned by the audience, including two professors of mathematics, who were greatly delighted. Except for one or two failures, due doubtless to his effort to be rapid, which were corrected directly, all his results were correct, whether they involved quintillions and sextillions, or the days of the week in the early part of the century, all of which seemed easier to him than the multiplication table does to some people.

Prof. Scripture of Yale, in his paper on "Some New Apparatus Used at Yale," described one which induces anæsthesia by electricity. It has not been sufficiently perfected yet to render teeth-extraction painless, but it can render any portion of the skin numb for a time. Afterwards Prof. Scripture showed many of the members of the Association through the Psychological Laboratory.

In the set papers in this section psychology as a science of mental life, rather than as an abstract science, the teaching of psychology and the physical basis of mental activity, to be understood by physiological and experimental psychology, were emphasized.

#### PROFESSORS LADD AND JAMES CHOSEN.

The American Psychological Association elected Professors G. T. Ladd of Yale and William James of Harvard to be its representatives at the meeting of the International Psychological Association to be held at Paris during the Exposition next Summer.

Among the speakers were the following professors: E. F. Buchner, Yale '93, School of Pedagogy, New York University; G. S. Fullerton, University of Pennsylvania; John Dewey, Chicago University; Max Meyer, Clark University; A. H. Pierce, Amherst; E. H. Griffin, Johns Hopkins; J. H. Hyslop, Columbia; William Caldwell, Chicago; J. A. Leighton, Hobart College; Alexander Meiklejohn, Brown; Albert Schinz, the University of Wisconsin; J. E. Creighton, Cornell; E. B. McGivalry, Cornell; J. G. Hibben, Princeton; Miss Mary Calkins, Wellesley; Miss Ellen Talbot, Chicago; Joseph Jastrow, Wisconsin; W. G. Everett, Harvard, and E. H. Sneath, Yale.

#### THE ANATOMISTS.

At the Association of American Anatomists, which assembled in the Medical School, nothing especially new was announced other than "A Hitherto Unrecognized Form of Vertebrate Blood Circulation in Organs Without Capillaries," by Prof. Minot of the Harvard Medical School. A knowledge of human anatomy seems fairly well on towards completion. Investigations on the anatomy of the brain were the important ones reported. The nomenclature of the nervous system is being revised, on the basis of the nomenclature adopted by the German Anatomical Society in 1895. A committee on this subject, including Prof. Ferris of the Yale Medical School, was appointed.

A paper on the fatigue caused by athletic contests was illustrated by numerous instantaneous photographs taken of men in various stages of the mile run. The facial expressions and general pose of the body gave good indications of the degree of exhaustion in the runner.

The newly-elected President of the Association, Prof. Burt G. Wilder of Cornell, read a paper on "If an Isthmus Rhombencephali, why not an Isthmus Proencephali?" Other papers were by Dr. D. S. Lamp, Washington, D. C.; Prof. E. W. Holmes, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. F. P. Mall, Johns Hopkins; Prof. G. C. Huber, Michigan University; Dr. J. P. Foster, Lecturer on Anatomy at Yale; Prof. G. S. Huntington, Columbia; Prof. Gerrish, Bowdoin Medical School; Dr. William Keiller, Galveston, Texas; Prof. J. F. Shepherd, McGill University, Montreal; Prof. Thomas Dwight, Harvard Medical School; Prof. J. A. Blake, Columbia Medical School; Dr. D. S. Lamb, Pathologist in the Army Medical Museum, Washington, and Professor in Howard University, and Prof. G. A. Piersol, University of Pennsylvania.

The Association has 150 members, several new ones being elected at this session.

#### THE MORPHOLOGISTS—PARTHENOGENESIS.

The American Morphological Society met in the Peabody Museum. Practically all the facts presented here were new, but generally meaningful only for the student of Zoölogy or Natural History. Reports were made on the investigations which have seemed to show that in certain forms of animal life the union of the male and female cells is not necessary for the production of life. It was shown that it is only a very little way that unfertilized ova will develop under the influence of strychnine and of certain compounds of magnesium. The female cells may be made to segment, but they will not form an embryo.

An interesting case of regeneration of the end of a human finger was described.

Papers were read among others by J. S. Kingsbury, Cornell; C. S. Minot, Harvard, who received an honorary degree from Yale last June; Maynard Metcalf, Woman's College, Baltimore;

G. H. Parker and C. Bullard, Harvard; Bashford Dean, Columbia; C. L. Bristol and F. W. Carpenter, New York University; Miss Wilcox, Wellesley; John H. Gerould, Dartmouth; Charles B. Wilson of the Normal High School, Westfield, Mass.; William L. Tower of Brown; G. C. Scott, Princeton; Thomas H. Montgomery, the University of Pennsylvania; William E. Ritter, University of California; Charles L. Edwards, Cincinnati; Frank R. Lillie, Vassar; T. H. Morgan, Bryn Mawr, and Prof. R. H. Johnson, Yale, and Robert W. Hall, Yale '95 S.

#### PLANT MORPHOLOGY.

The Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology met in the Sheffield Botanical Laboratory. Mr. H. J. Webber of the U. S. Department of Agriculture advanced a new theory explaining why the crossing of two different species of orange trees does not produce a hybrid. It is because more than one embryo is formed from the pistils, the one which produces the non-hybrid being developed vegetatively, not fertilized sexually.

All the papers were extremely technical. They were by Dr. G. E. Stone, Massachusetts Agricultural College; Prof. J. M. Coulter, University of Chicago; Prof. W. G. Farlow, Harvard; Mr. R. E. Smith, Massachusetts Agricultural College; Mr. Henry S. Conard, University of Pennsylvania; Mr. F. C. Stewart, New York Experiment Station; Mr. G. T. Moore, Dartmouth; Prof. D. T. MacDougal, New York Botanical Garden; Prof. F. E. Lloyd, New York Teachers' College; Dr. Roland Thaxter, Shaw School of Botany; Mr. Frederick H. Blodgett, New York Experiment Station; Prof. L. M. Underwood, Columbia; Dr. Henry Kraemer, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; Dr. Henry H. True, Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. J. B. Pollock, University of Michigan; Mr. W. C. Coker, Johns Hopkins; Dr. A. W. Evans, Yale; Dr. C. O. Townsend, Maryland Agricultural College; Dr. E. B. Copeland, University of West Virginia; Miss Harriet B. Winsor, Springfield, Mass.; Dr. W. F. Ganong, Smith College; Dr. J. M. Macfarlane, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Erwin F. Smith, United States Department of Agriculture. Abstracts of the proceedings will be published in the *Botanical Gazette*.

#### FOLK-LORE STUDIES.

The American Folk-Lore Society met in Osborn Hall. The Society is somewhat recent. Its object is to collect the myths, legends, superstitions, art, history, language, music and other interesting lore of various peoples, especially primitive ones. The North American Indians have been the special object of their study. Their myths have been found to contain some close parallels to the Biblical stories of creation, the deluge, Jonah, and other early Hebrew legends.

The Council of the Society urged that energetic steps be taken to collect data concerning the earliest inhabitants of this country and that for this purpose the legislatures of the several western states, in which archaeological remains and remnants of the aboriginal population still exist, be requested to appropriate funds for the desired investigations.

A collection and scientific study of the music of the southern negroes is being made. Miss Alice M. Brown, of Hampton Institute, illustrated her paper on this subject by phonographic reproductions of several "conn songs."

Mrs. Isabel C. Chamberlain, of Worcester, narrated the Indian legend of "The Devil's Grandmother" and Mr. Stewart Culin, of Philadelphia, described "American Indian Evening Games." Other papers and speakers were: "American Sun Myths," Mr. Frank Boas, New York; "The Countingout Rhymes of Children," Mr. William S. Monroe; "Star-Lore of the Mimacs," Mr. Stansbury Hagar, Brooklyn; "Taboos of Tale-Telling," Mr. Alexander F. Chamberlain, Worcester.

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#### THE BACTERIOLOGISTS.

The Society of American Bacteriologists was assembled in the Medical School for its first annual meeting. The Society was organized only this year by Prof. H. W. Conn of Wesleyan University, and Prof. A. C. Abbott of the University of Pennsylvania.

No new theories were advanced, but several hypotheses concerning the propagation and destruction of bacilli were confirmed. All the papers were of a highly technical character, giving the results of original research, by Edwin F. Smith, United States Department of Agriculture; Prof. H. W. Conn, Wesleyan University; F. D. Chester, Delaware College Agricultural Experiment Station; Prof. H. C. Ernst, Harvard; H. A. Harding, New York Agricultural Experiment Station; Professors W. T. Sedgewick and C. E. A. Winslow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; M. O. Leighton, Board of Health, Montclair, N. J.; S. C. Keith, Jr., Boston; Archibald K. Ward, Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station; H. W. Clark and S. D. Gage, Lawrence Experiment Station of Harvard; Prof. E. O. Jordan, University of Chicago; Professors V. A. Moore and Floyd R. Wright, Cornell; H. W. Clark, Massachusetts State Board of Health; Prof. L. P. Kinnicut, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Adolf Gehrman, Chicago; Oscar Loew, United States Department of Agriculture; Ludwig Hektaen, Rush Medical College, Chicago; William H. Park, Laboratory of the New York Board of Health.

#### THE CHEMISTS.

The American Chemical Society held its twentieth general meeting in the Kent Chemical Laboratory and the Sheffield Chemical Laboratory.

The papers in this department also were of a strictly technical character. The retiring President, Prof. Edward W. Morley, of Adelbert College, discussed whether new processes are needed for the determination of the atomic weight of oxygen. Mr. Morley is the chemist who has made the most exhaustive investigations on the atomic weights of oxygen and hydrogen, so that the possibility of error in the case of hydrogen is now reduced to one five-thousandth part. He is the most famous chemist of the world in his line, Physical Chemistry.

The new President is Mr. William McMurtrie, of New York City. He is the head chemist of the Royal Baking Powder Co.

Prof. James Locke, of Yale, announced his recent discovery of the

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