

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB

THE club was called to order on April 14, 1908, at 8:30 o'clock, by Vice-president John Hendley Barnhart. Seven persons were present.

The scientific program consisted of two papers, as follows:

The Relation of Chemical Stimulation to Nitrogen Fixation in Sterigmatocystis:
MARION E. LATHAM.

This paper will appear in full in a future number of the *Bulletin* of the club.

Some Forms of Protoplasmic Reaction: H. M. RICHARDS.

The speaker reviewed the more recent literature and theories bearing on the subject of the stimulus and response of protoplasm.

Both of these papers were followed by an interesting discussion, and the meeting adjourned at ten o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY. NEW YORK SECTION

THE eighth regular meeting of the session of 1907-8 was held at the Chemists' Club, 108 West 55th Street, on May 8.

Professor Charles E. Munroe, of the George Washington University, addressed the Section on, "Explosions in Mines."

C. M. JOYCE,
Secretary

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE GERMAN ANATOMICAL SOCIETY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: During the recent meeting of the Anatomische Gesellschaft, at Berlin, I noticed several points of management and procedure which seemed to me of value in economy of time, and I send you my notes with the hope that their publication may interest those in charge of the meetings of similar organizations in America.

In the first place, the meetings of our societies often suffer by reason of overcrowded programs. There is not time to present all the papers presented and the chances

for discussion of those which are read are reduced to a minimum.

In the German society the number of papers to be presented at a single session is limited by statute to twenty-five and usually but about that number is printed on the preliminary program. This year, owing to the number of titles sent in at an early date, the number was increased to thirty-nine, those in excess to be read only in case others ahead of them were omitted for one reason or another.

This restriction of number of papers allows an increase of the time limit for each person to twenty minutes, but one person is allowed only one place on the program, although he may give two or more papers, provided that he do not overrun his allotted third of an hour. Only once did I notice that a speaker overran his time and he was called to order by the president.

As a rule, the speakers went at once straight to the pith of their communications; wasting no time in historical summaries of previous knowledge of the subject, details of technique or minutiae of diagrams or specimens exhibited, which only tire and confuse the listener who only wishes to know the new points and the broadest evidence upon which the conclusions are based. Knowing these, he can wait for details until the complete paper is published.

The sessions were announced to begin at 9 A.M. instead of ten o'clock, as is usual with us, and they lived up pretty closely to this schedule. This apparently was well understood, as when the meeting was called to order a goodly audience was present. Were the Americans ever to live up to their late program hour, calling the meeting to order at 10 o'clock instead of "dawdling" until most of the members had got together, the lesson of punctuality would soon be learned and considerable time would be saved.

With this limitation of the number of papers and the economy of time which has been alluded to, there was abundant time for discussion, and all must admit that discussion is frequently as valuable as, sometimes more valuable than, the paper itself. In these dis-