to salacious introspection. All the professions of high-toned virtue with which the pamphlet abounds, do not suffice to mitigate its distinctly unclean influence. The interpretation of the meanings of the words Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates, the four branches of the river which went out of the garden of Eden, is somewhat ingenious but very far-fetched indeed. The Garden of Eden is the abdominal cavity, whence the river branches into "Pison," the circulating blood; "Gihon," the stream which carries off the waste solid residues; "Hiddekel," which performs the same function for the liquids, and "Euphrates," which "flows through the reproductive system." This is an excellent pamphlet to omit from the shelves of a library of useful books. F.

Franklin Institute.

[*Proceedings of the Stated Meeting, held Wednesday, November 20, 1889.*]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
WEDNESDAY, November 20, 1889.

JOSEPH M. WILSON, President, in the Chair.

Present, fifty-four members and ten visitors.

Additions to membership since the previous meeting, forty-six.

Mr. WM. L. BOSWELL, one of the delegates of the INSTITUTE to the late Universal Exposition in Paris, presented an oral report on the subject of "The Fire Defences of Paris, as Compared with those of American Cities, and especially of Philadelphia." The speaker discussed the theme at some length, and presented an instructive contrast of conditions and usages in vogue in the two countries. The subject was illustrated graphically. It was freely discussed by MESSRS. FULLERTON, WEAVER, WIEGAND and BOSWELL. Mr. BOSWELL's report will appear in the JOURNAL.

The President made some remarks upon his observations of trade schools in France and England, having been charged with the task of investigating the organization and mode of operation of such institutions on behalf of the projected school of Mr. A. J. DREXEL, of this city. The President proposed to make this theme the subject of an elaborate report, for early publication in the JOURNAL.

Mr. W. N. JENNINGS exhibited, with the aid of the lantern, a series of photographic views, taken along the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, shortly after the disastrous floods of last spring, that proved so destructive of life and property. The pictures embraced views showing the break in the South Fork Dam, the remains of the well-known Conemaugh Viaduct, and of wrecks of a number of locomotives and trains.

The Secretary presented his usual report of technical progress, and the meeting adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL, *Secretary.*