Franklin Institute.

[*Proceedings of the annual meeting held Wednesday, January 18, 1899.*]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
PHILADELPHIA, January 18, 1899.

MR. JOHN BIRKINBINE, President, in the chair.

Present, 162 members and visitors.

Additions to membership since last report, 43.

The President presented some remarks, *apropos* to the near approach of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Institute, which are reproduced elsewhere.

The annual reports of the Board of Managers, of the various Standing Committees and Sections, and of the Trustees of the Cresson Medal Fund, were presented and accepted. (These reports are printed in this impression of the *Journal*.)

The Actuary reported the following resolution in reference to the hours of closing the Library in the evening, adopted by the Board of Managers, on the recommendation of the Curators and Committee on Library, at its stated meeting of January 11th, inst., viz.:

"(1) On Saturdays the Library will close at 5 P.M., excepting that, during the summer season, the regulations at present in force shall continue.

"(2) On all other days of the week, namely, from Monday to Friday, inclusive, the Library will be closed at 8.30 P.M., excepting on the evening of the stated meeting of the Institute (the third Wednesday of each month), when the present arrangement to close at 10 P.M. shall remain in force."

The Board has directed that these rules shall be enforced on and after February 1, 1899.

The Secretary reported a recommendation of the Mining and Metallurgical Section, that the Institute, as a body, should become a member of the American Branch of the International Association for Testing Technical Materials. In connection with this recommendation, the Secretary presented and read the following communication from Mr. Wm. R. Webster, member of the Section, strongly urging the desirability and advantage of co-operation by the Institute in the work of the Association, viz.:

"PHILADELPHIA, January 18, 1899.

"*Dr. Wm. H. Wahl, Secretary Franklin Institute.*

"DEAR SIR:—I * * * desire to call your attention to the importance of the Franklin Institute becoming a member of the American Branch of the International Association for the Testing of Materials. The Institute could be of the greatest service in collecting specifications from our engineers, manufacturers and railroads, as their request for them would be promptly complied with. This work is absolutely necessary as a preliminary step in arriving at what would represent standard American specifications of to-day for each class of material. Similar work will have to be done in each country, and then the four or five standard specifications compared, as the first step towards international specifications.

"A full set of American specifications collected in this way would be a valuable addition to our library, and of considerable benefit to our members, and especially to our engineers and manufacturers. Yours truly,

"WM. R. WEBSTER."

The recommendation was, on motion, approved, and the matter was referred to the Mining and Metallurgical Section, with authority to take all needful steps to make the co-operation of the Institute in the work of the International Association effective.

The President introduced the speaker of the evening, Prof. Raoul Pictet, of Geneva, Switzerland, who addressed the meeting on the "Influence of Extremely Low Temperatures in Chemistry, and on the Application of the Low Temperatures in Establishing New Methods of Chemical Synthesis." Professor Pictet illustrated his theme by a number of striking experiments, showing the arrestation of chemical action at temperatures approximating -80°C . Thus, at or about this temperature metallic sodium and hydrochloric acid do not react; hydrochloric acid is inert in presence of fragments of marble; litmus tincture has lost its sensitiveness as an indicator of acids and alkalies, etc., etc.

[The paper was referred for publication.]

The meeting tendered the speaker a vote of thanks for his extremely instructive address.

The Secretary presented and commented upon a number of technical topics.

The tellers of the annual election presented their report, which was accepted, and they were discharged, with the thanks of the Institute for their services. The President thereupon declared the following persons to have been elected:

<i>For President</i>	(to serve one year),	JOHN BIRKINBINE.
" <i>Vice-President</i>	(" three years),	CHAS. BULLOCK.
" <i>Secretary</i>	(" one year),	WM. H. WAHL.
" <i>Treasurer</i>	(" one year),	SAMUEL SARTAIN.
" <i>Auditor</i>	(" three years),	WM. H. GREENE.

For Managers (to serve three years).

THOS. P. CONARD,	ISAAC NORRIS, JR.,
JAMES M. DODGE,	STACY REEVES,
C. LELAND HARRISON,	FRANCIS SCHUMANN,
WASHINGTON JONES,	COLEMAN SELLERS.

For the Committee on Science and the Arts (to serve three years).

HUGO BILGRAM,	FRED. E. IVES,	EDGAR MARBURG,
FRANK P. BROWN,	CHAS. JAMES,	C. J. REED,
J. J. DEKINDER,	W. N. JENNINGS.	E. ALEX. SCOTT,
W. C. L. EGLIN,	ARTHUR KITSON,	COLEMAN SELLERS,
A. M. GREENE, JR.,	WILFRED LEWIS,	H. W. SPANGLER.

To fill the unexpired term of Clayton W. Pike, resigned, FRANCIS HEAD.
Adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL, *Secretary*.