PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CHEMICAL SECTION
OF THE
FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

[Stated meeting held Tuesday, December 20, 1892.]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
PHILADELPHIA, December 20, 1892.

Dr. Wm. H. Wahl, President, in the chair.

The special business of the evening being the election of officers for the coming year, this matter was considered first.

Letters from the various candidates were read, accepting or declining their nominations made at the November meeting. The gentlemen accepting nominations were Dr. Wm. H. Greene for President, Mr. Henry Bower and Dr. D. K. Tuttle for Vice-Presidents, two to be elected.

The nominees for the remaining offices were the present incumbents, Wm. C. Day, Secretary; Dr. H. W. Jayne, Treasurer, and Dr. Wm. H. Wahl, Conservator.

The Secretary was directed to cast the vote of the Section for all the candidates above-named.

Mr. H. Pemberton, Jr., nominated Mr. Geo. P. Tucker, of the Patent Office, Washington, D. C., and Dr. Wahl nominated Mr. W. J. Williams, of Wilmington, Del.

The Committee on Admission having considered the candidates presented, declared them elected members of the Section.

The annual report of the Treasurer was read and referred to the Auditing Committee, who examined the accounts, and the report was accepted.

The Secretary's annual report was read and accepted.

The committee in charge of the reception tendered, on the 5th inst., to Dr. H. W. Wiley, of Washington, D. C., made a report, which was accepted with a vote of thanks and the committee was discharged.

The Secretary suggested that the interest of our meetings might be increased if during the year we could secure a limited number of papers, giving in condensed form an account of the development of certain subjects either of technical or purely scientific import, thereby showing the present state of knowledge of those subjects. At the suggestion of Dr. Jayne, the matter was referred to a committee to be named by the Chair to consider the advisability of the suggestion and to formulate a plan for carrying it out. The President appointed Dr. Wm. H. Greene, Mr. H. Pemberton, Jr., and

the Secretary members of this committee, with instructions to report at the January meeting.

Dr. S. C. Hooker read a paper on "Di-brom β -Lapachone: its Preparation and Properties." The paper was the joint production of Dr. Hooker and Mr. A. D. Gray.

Dr. Hooker read also an abstract from the "Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, Department of Industrial Statistics." This abstract treated of the progress of the process of sugar refining as at present conducted at the Franklin Sugar Refinery of Philadelphia. The article showed clearly and in detail the high state of perfection to which the sugar refining industry has been brought.

Both papers called forth considerable discussion from the members present.

Specimens of the substances discussed in both papers were presented for inspection.

A paper on "Artesian Wells as a Water Supply for Philadelphia," by Prof. O. C. S. Carter, of the Central High School of Philadelphia, was submitted by Dr. Greene; it was read by title and referred for publication.

The Section then adjourned.

WM. C. DAY, *Secretary*.

THE DEPOSITS OF NATIVE SODA, NEAR LARAMIE WYOMING.

BY H. PEMBERTON, JR., AND GEO. P. TUCKER.

[*Read at the stated meeting of the Chemical Section, November 15, 1892.*]

Previous to the Civil War, and at a time when the line of civilization extended as far only as the Mississippi River, very little was known of the part of the United States west of that limit. A vast region now comprising many large States was described in the geographies of the day as "the great American Desert." It constituted a part of the prairies or plains, so often mentioned in Cooper's novels. And while the prairies, as a general rule (and particularly in elevations not much above sea-level), are composed of a fertile and rich soil, their character changes as the approach is made to the Rocky Mountains, and when an elevation of 7,000 feet is reached as in Wyoming, the soil and climate resemble somewhat the soil and climate of Nevada and other parts of the Great Basin. On this high Wyoming