Franklin Institute.

Proceedings of the Stated Monthly Meeting, April 20th, 1870.

IN the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the meeting was called to order with Mr. Charles S. Close in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Actuary submitted the minutes of the Board of Managers, and reported that at their stated meeting, held April 13th instant, donations to the library were received from the Royal Astronomical Society, the Royal Institution, the Institute of Actuaries, and the Society of Arts, London; and the Manchester Steam Users' Association, Manchester, England; l'Academie des Sciences, la Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale, Paris; et la Société Industrielles, Mulhouse, France; der Oesterreichischen Ingenieure-Vereine, Vienna, Austria; Major L. A. Huguet Latour, Montreal, Canada; the Mechanics Institute, San Francisco, Cal.; I. H. C. Coffin, Esq., and Hon. John Lynch, H. R., Washington, D.C.; W. W. Hubbell, Esq., and the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad Company, Philadelphia.

The various Standing Committees reported their minutes.

The Resident Secretary then read his report on Novelties in Science and the Mechanic Arts, after which the meeting was, on motion, adjourned.

HENRY MORTON, *Secretary*.

Living Organisms in Limestones.—M. Béchamp is the author of an interesting memoir upon this subject, to the French Academy.

He asserts the presence, in the limestones of various geological periods, of living organisms, to which he attaches the name of microzymas.

These microscopic beings he has found, not only in geologically modern deposits, but even in those of Jurassic age. To their presence, he claims, is due the fact that the various limestones, when brought into contact with starch or sugar solutions, cause fermentation to set in; while the same experiment with the highly crystalline varieties of carbonate of lime, produces no trace of such a phenomenon.