Two very brilliant meteors fell at 5.28 a. m., November 15, and their paths crossed each other. One came from the radiant and the other from below Leo and cut the trail of the first under Canes Venatici. The trails were 30 degrees long.

The hope was expressed that next year we would be favored with a shower more brilliant and comparable to the showers of 1833 and 1866.

F. L. TUFTS,
Secretary.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

THE first paper on the scientific program on December 10, 1901, was by Professor L. M. Underwood on 'The Genus *Gleichenia*.' This was illustrated by specimens and sketches, showing the principal natural types. The paper will be published in full in an early number of the *Bulletin*.

Mrs. N. L. Britton presented 'Notes on Macoun's Recent Collections of Canadian Mosses,' speaking of collections made by Professor J. Macoun during the past summer in the lower peninsula of Ontario between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Special mention was made of *Seligeria campylopoda* Kindb., previously known only from Owen Sound, but now collected at Niagara Falls. This moss ordinarily grows in pockets in limestone rocks and being very small is easily overlooked. Mrs. Britton alluded also to the synonymy of *Polytrichum Ohioense* Ren. & Card. This species was distributed by Drummond in his *Musci Americani* as *Polytrichum pallidisetum* and is apparently the same as what was afterwards recognized in the Manual of Lesquereux and James as *Polytrichum formosum*, var. *pallidisetum*, but whether the original *Polytrichum pallidisetum* of Funk is identical remains to be determined.

Dr. P. A. Rydberg in 'A Review of a Recent Monograph of the Ranunculaceæ' discussed the work recently written by Dr. K. C. Davis.

The final paper was by Mr. S. H. Burnham and was entitled 'Notes on the Flora of the Lake George Region.' Mr. Burnham referred especially to *Bidens Beckii*, an aquatic plant

growing in five or six feet of water in muddy streams, and to his experiences in collecting it through the ice during the last week of November of the present year. He also alluded to the restriction of *Castalia tuberosa* to the streams flowing directly into Lake Champlain while *Castalia odorata* alone is found in the Lake George Basin.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.

NORTHERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Section was held on Tuesday evening, December 17, in the Kidder lecture room of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor C. F. Chandler, of Columbia University, addressed the Society on 'The Electro-chemical Industries at Niagara Falls.' After tracing the historical development of electro-chemistry, Professor Chandler proceeded to discuss the development of the Castner process for the manufacture of sodium, sodium hydroxide, peroxide and cyanide, and the utilization of the chlorine from the salt for the manufacture of bleaching powder. The Hall process for the manufacture of aluminium together with the electrolytic purification of bauxite was then discussed and illustrated by a large number of beautiful specimens. The preparation and applications of carborundum, graphite, phosphorus and calcium carbide were considered in detail and were used to illustrate the rapid development of the electro-chemical industries at Niagara Falls.

HENRY FAY,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEASUREMENT OF WIND AT SEA.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In conducting at sea the meteorological observations with kites that have been described in SCIENCE, it was necessary to deduce from the observations on the ship and from the record of velocity at the kite the true direction and velocity of the wind at sea-level and in the upper air, respectively. Knowing the resultant direction