

The principle of the light is vibration. The illumination is secured by means of what Mr. Tesla terms a vibrator within a bulb, which holds the vibrating needle within a vacuum. The needle vibrates so rapidly that the figures per second sound imaginary, but it is this intensity of energy which gives the light its brilliancy and its apparent steadiness. The lights do not have to be renewed.

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#### REMOVING RESTRICTIONS FROM THE FRENCH UNIVERSITIES.

It will be of interest to American students desiring to avail themselves of the advantages of the French higher schools, to learn that the Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique, of France, has issued a decree which removes the restrictions imposed on American and other foreign students in French universities and gives them a status similar to that accorded them by the German universities. The memorial addressed to the Conseil by Prof. H. J. Furber, of the University of Chicago, called attention to the fact that there were only 30 students at the Sorbonne, while there were 200 at the University of Berlin. The conditions will now probably be substantially changed by the new decree.

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### Franklin Institute.

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[*Proceedings of the stated meeting, held Wednesday, May 20, 1896.*]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,

PHILADELPHIA, May 20, 1896.

JOS. M. WILSON, President, in the chair.

Present, 208 members and visitors.

Additions to membership since last report, 5.

The Secretary presented and read a communication from Mr. A. v. Kerpely, the President of the Executive Committee of the Mining and Geological Millennial Congress, to be held in Buda-Pesth, September 25-26, 1896, in connection with the commemoration of the Millennial Anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian kingdom.

The President was authorised, by vote, to use his discretion in naming a delegate to represent the Institute at this Congress.

Mr. Richard W. Barkley, of New York, gave an account of the process of Professor Joly, of Dublin, of reproducing the colors of nature by photography, and showed a number of lantern slides illustrating the process. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Barkley for his interesting communication.

Mr. Arthur Kitson presented an illustrated paper on the Kitson gas producer.

Prof. Arthur W. Goodspeed, University of Pennsylvania, by special invitation, exhibited a number of lantern slides of Röntgen radiographs, made by himself, which illustrated in a remarkable manner the great advances that had been made in this newly-opened field of investigation, since its first announcement, about six months ago.

The speaker was accorded the thanks of the meeting.

The Secretary exhibited and commented on some new cellulose products made by Messrs. Cross, Bevan and Beadle, of London, and the product known as steel wool, of which specimens were shown.

On motion of Mr. G. M. Eldridge, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted without dissent, viz.:

WHEREAS, The Act of Congress of the United States in force prior to January, 1895, provided for the distribution of the monthly volumes of patents to such libraries as would pay for the binding thereof and comply with certain regulations relating thereto; and

WHEREAS, The Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania, for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, has and various other public libraries have complied with said regulations and paid for binding, and have received and have now on their shelves all such monthly volumes up to and including the month of December, 1893, to the great accommodation and advantage of the public seeking information regarding patents; and

WHEREAS, On the 12th of January, 1895, an Act of Congress was passed inhibiting such distribution of these volumes, whereby great inconvenience has resulted to such seekers for information; and

WHEREAS, The presence and use of these monthly volumes of patents is of great service to the general public, but of no profit or advantage to the Franklin Institute or to such other libraries or to its or their members, beyond other persons;

*Be it resolved*, By the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania, for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, that the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully petitioned to take such action as will restore the privileges of distribution of such monthly volumes of patents to the condition in which it existed prior to the passage of the Act of January 12, 1895;

*And be it further resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully petitioned to take such action as will class the bound monthly volumes of patents with other publications of the United States, so that they may be distributed, like such other publications, to libraries which are designated as depositories of public documents, as heretofore and now provided by law in relation to such other publications.

Adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL, *Secretary*.