

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1896.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANATOMISTS.

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REPORT OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Eighth Annual Meeting of the Association of American Anatomists was held in the College Hall of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., December 27 and 28, 1895. The President, Dr. Thomas Dwight, presided. The following members were present during the meeting: Doctors Harrison Allen, Frank Baker, A. D. Bevan, H. L. Birkett, F. J. Brockway, W. A. Brooks, C. E. Cotton, Thos. Dwight, P. A. Fish, W. S. Forbes, F. H. Gerrish, M. J. Greenman, C. A. Hamann, Addinell Hewson, E. R. Hodge, E. W. Holmes, G. S. Huntington, D. S. Lamb, John Lindsay, J. Ewing Mears, C. S. Minot, R. O. Moody, J. P. Tunis and B. G. Wilder.

Prof. E. D. Cope, Horace Jayne, Theodore Gill, F. A. Lucas, Washington Matthews, H. F. Osborn and W. B. Scott, of the Association, were mainly occupied with the meetings of the affiliated societies.

The following new members were elected: W. G. Christian, M. D., Professor of Anatomy, University of Virginia. Clyde E. Cotton, M. D., Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, University of Pennsylvania. Gilman D. Frost, M. D., Professor Anatomy Medical Department, Dartmouth College. Robert H. M. Dawbarn, M. D., Professor Surgical Anatomy and Operative Surgery, New York Polyclinic. Wm. E. Lewis, M.

D., Professor Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy, Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. John Lindsay, M. D., Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, University of Pennsylvania. Alfred L. T. Schaper, Demonstrator of Histology and Embryology, Harvard Medical School. Geo. D. Stewart, M. D., Lecturer on Anatomy, Bellevue Hospital Medical College. B. B. Stroud, D.Sc., Instructor in Physiology, Vertebrate Zoölogy and Neurology, Cornell University. Joseph P. Tunis, A. B., M. D., Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, University of Pennsylvania. George Woolsey, M. D., Professor Anatomy, University of City of New York.

The following were elected to Honorary Membership: Prof. Wm. Henry Flower, London, England; Sir Geo. Murray Humphry, Cambridge, England.

The following members resigned: Tracy E. Clark, B. S., Professor of Natural History, Clinton Liberal Institute, Ft. Plain, N. Y., and Maurice Howe Richardson, M. D., Assistant Professor Anatomy, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Frank Baker, of Washington, was elected President for the next term; Dr. Addinell Hewson, of Philadelphia, Delegate to the Executive Committee of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons; and Dr. A. D. Bevan, of Chicago, a member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Geo. S. Huntington, of New York City, was added to the Committee on the Table at Naples.

The Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature made the following report:

The Committee report general progress in the consideration of the complex subject entrusted to them and express the opinion that substantial improvement will result from the work of the Committee of the *Anatomischer Gesellschaft*.

Your committee recommend to anatomists that, other things being equal, terms consisting of a single word each be em-

ployed rather than terms of two or more words. Harrison Allen, Chairman; Thomas Dwight, Frank Baker, Frederick H. Gerish, Burt G. Wilder, Secretary.

The committee on the collection and preservation of anatomical material, consisting of J. Ewing Mears, J. D. Bryant and Thomas Dwight, made the report which is appended (see page 77).

The Secretary was instructed to have a copy of the amended report and a copy of the Presidential address sent to the Professors and Demonstrators of Anatomy in the United States and Canada.

The Secretary reported that there were 115 active members and five honorary.

The following papers were read:

1. 'Myology of the extremities of Lemur Bruneus.' Illustrated by drawings and casts of muscles. Dr. George S. Huntington, New York City.
2. 'History of the Ciliary Muscle.' Dr. Frank Baker, Washington, D. C.
3. 'Absence of Fibrous Pericardium of left side.' Illustrated by specimen. Dr. Addinell Hewson, Philadelphia, Pa.
4. 'The Descriptive Anatomy of the Human Heart.' Dr. Wm. Keiller, Galveston, Texas.
5. 'Nomenclature of Nerve Cells.' Dr. Frank Baker, Washington, D. C.
6. 'The Cerebral Fissures of Two Philosophers.' Illustrated by specimens and photographs. Dr. B. G. Wilder, Ithaca, N. Y.
7. 'The Human Paroccipital Fissure; Should it be Recognized and so Designated?' Illustrated by specimens and photographs. Dr. Wilder.
8. 'Practical Histology for Large Classes.' Dr. Chas. S. Minot, Boston, Mass.
9. 'Some Novel Methods of Description of the Human Skull.' Dr. Harrison Allen, Philadelphia, Pa.
10. '*Fossa Capitis Femoris*, with Observations on the Trechanteric Fossa.' Illus-

trated by specimens. Dr. F. J. Brockway, New York City.

11. 'Note on the Appearance of a Unilateral Tuberosity in Place of the Trochanteric Fossa.' Illustrated by specimen. Dr. D. S. Lamb, Washington, D. C.

12. 'A Case of Polyorchis.' Illustrated by specimen. Dr. D. S. Lamb.

13. 'The Cerebrum of *Phoca Vitulina*.' Illustrated by specimen. Dr. P. A. Fish, Washington, D. C.

The members of the Association were entertained by Dr. Horace Jayne, of Philadelphia, who gave a reception on the night of the 26th; were lunched on the 27th and 28th by the University authorities, and on the 28th by Mr. W. B. Saunders at the Art Club.

The courtesies of the American Philosophical Society were also extended. On the evening of the 26th they also listened to a lecture by Prof. W. B. Scott, of Princeton, N. J., on the 'History of the Lacustrine Formations of North America and their Mammalian Fossils.'

A banquet by members of the affiliated societies was given on the evening of the 27th at the Hotel Lafayette and was well attended.

D. S. LAMB,
Secretary.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILIZATION AND TO
SCIENCE—PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY
DR. THOMAS DWIGHT, HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL.

It had not been my intention to inflict upon the Association a Presidential address; but at a late moment, impressed with the gravity of the matters that are to come before us, far transcending as one of them does, the importance of purely scientific discussion, I felt it a duty I owe to the position I have the honor to hold, to introduce them to the Association with the best suggestions concerning them I can offer. It is not too much to call them our contribution

to civilization and to science. Easily first in importance is the report of the committee on procuring and using anatomical material. Though both branches of the question are of interest to anatomists, the first rises beyond the sphere of the specialist. It is a social question of the first importance. I shall not anticipate the report of the committee, of which I am a member. I wish merely to lay down briefly certain principles which, I conceive, should guide us. We know only too well that dissection is an abomination to the popular mind. The aversion to it is well nigh universal, confined to no class of society, nor to any creed. This horror seems to be founded chiefly on two points, one the deprivation of sepulchre, the other the idea that the remains are submitted to wanton insult. The idea that respect is due to the dead body is so deeply rooted in the human mind as to be almost instinctive. I am far from calling these feelings superstitious. We know, indeed, that no violence can harm the dead, but, though reason is convinced, the heart is not satisfied. We anatomists, no less than others, shudder at the thought of the desecration of the remains of those who have been near and dear to us. The mad wrath caused by the feeling that graves are not safe is a well justified one. It is a disgrace to our civilization that in some parts of the Union body-snatching is still practised, and that in others there exists an illicit trade in human bodies. Should any of my colleagues think me indiscreet in alluding to these matters, I must remind them that I am saying nothing which has not been made notorious through the public press.

It is idle to hope, while human nature remains what it is, that aversion to dissection will ever disappear. Our wisest course is to recognize it, and to soften it by removing all just cause of complaint. It should be made clear to the public that dissection can and should be followed by