

elements simply those in which the number of atoms which disintegrate per second is so large that the process is easily detected? These are far-reaching questions. The obvious way of getting an answer to them is to test ordinary matter, like silver, platinum, copper, and so on, for radio-activity. Strutt has done this with great care, and his result is that all ordinary substances appear to possess a slight radio-activity. Unless this is due to a faint trace of a radio-element, it opens a vista of thought which staggers the imagination. A slow—inconceivably slow—process of evolution is taking place in the matter around us. Billions of times more slowly than radium, the elements are changing into something else. Matter has had a beginning and will have an end. . So much we can see, but the beginning and end may remain forever unknown to us.

CENTRAL MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL,  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

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## Franklin Institute.

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[*Proceedings of the Stated Meeting, held Wednesday, February 15, 1905.*]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,  
PHILADELPHIA, February 15, 1905.

VICE-PRESIDENT WASHINGTON JONES in the chair.

Present, 42 members and visitors. Additions to membership during the previous month, 14.

The paper of the evening was read by Mr. John W. Hill, Chief Engineer of the Bureau of Filtration, Department of Public Works, Philadelphia, "On the Construction, Examination and Repair of the Torresdale Conduit."

The speaker illustrated his remarks very fully with the aid of lantern photographs.

The paper was discussed by Mr. Spencer Fullerton, Mr. E. M. Nichols, Dr. E. Goldsmith and the author.

On Dr. Goldsmith's motion the meeting passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hill for his interesting communication.

Mr. John E. Alexander followed with a description of an improved phonograph of his invention, known as the "phonosphere," and gave a demonstration with the apparatus.

Adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL,  
*Secretary.*