

Members of the Council, H. P. Talbot, L. P. Kinnicutt, C. L. Parsons.

ARTHUR M. COMEY,
Secretary.

THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY
TEACHERS.

THE Association held its fifteenth regular—sixth annual—meeting Saturday, November 15, at the Dorchester High School, Boston. The Association holds three regular meetings per year, its membership being drawn from all sections of the United States, but mostly from New England. Visits were made in the forenoon to the New England Gas and Coke Plant and the United States Steel Works at Everett. The principal paper of the afternoon was by Professor Arthur A. Noyes, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on 'The Interpretation of the Usual Scheme of Qualitative Analysis Through the Mass Action Law and the Ionic Theory,' accompanied by experiments. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, L. G. Smith, Roxbury.

Vice-President, A. S. Perkins, Dorchester.

Secretary, George A. Cowen, West Roxbury.

Treasurer, E. F. Holden, Charlestown.

Executive Committee, George W. Earle, Somerville; Miss Laura P. Patten, Medford; Oliver P. Watts, Waltham.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL JOURNAL CLUB.

December 5.—The following papers were reviewed: T. Nelson Dale, 'Bulletin 195 U. S. G. S.,' by Mr. Fred H. Moffit. Mr. Moffit has been Professor Dale's assistant for the past five years and gave much additional information concerning Vermont geology with some interesting problems of which this Bulletin deals. Rudolf Dekeskamp, on the 'Distribution of *Barium* in Rocks and Mineral Springs as Bearing Especially upon the Theory of Lateral Secretion' (*Zeitschrift für Praktische Geologie*, April, 1902), by Professor J. F. Kemp. H. W. SHIMER.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

THE first meeting of the season was held on November 5, 1902. Dr. T. A. Jaggar, Jr., spoke on the 'Possibility of Volcano-Proof

Construction.' During the past summer the speaker had investigated the destructive work of Mt. Pelée in the Antilles and described the eruptions there as of a common type in which there are tremendous explosions of steam, hot dust, and stones, but with no good evidence of lava flows. The loss of life is chiefly by the intense heat, by falling of solid bodies, such as stones, by blasts of wind, and by suffocation from causes not clearly defined, but perhaps in some cases by gases. The few survivors of the explosions on Martinique and St. Vincent were in each case sheltered in very tightly constructed rooms which admitted but little outside air, and were protected in some measure by large walls of masonry on the side towards the volcano. A number of lantern slides were shown illustrating the effects of the explosions.

The second paper was by Dr. W. E. Castle, on 'Mendel's Principles of Heredity.' Mendel's work on hybridization was performed about fifty years ago, but until recently his discoveries have gone almost unnoticed. Among the more important of Mendel's discoveries are: (1) The law of dominance, when, for example, the offspring of two parents differing in respect of one character, all resemble one parent, and possess, therefore, the dominant character, that of the other parent being latent or recessive. (2) In place of simple dominance, there may be manifest in the immediate hybrid offspring an intensification of character, or a condition intermediate between the two parents, or the offspring may have a peculiar character of their own. (3) A segregation of characters united in the hybrid takes place in their offspring, so that a certain per cent. of these offspring possess the dominant character alone, a certain per cent. the recessive character alone, while a certain per cent. are again hybrid in nature.

At the meeting of November 19, 1902, Mr. William Lyman Underwood spoke on 'Bird Photography.' A large number of lantern slides of New England birds was shown, most of which were obtained after much painstaking work in northern Maine. Mr. Underwood's observations showed that, in the case of the chickadee and the yellow-bellied sap-