

oxyhydrogen blow-pipe. The melting of platinum was done by Prof. Hare, on a limited scale, for commercial purposes.

In 1839, Mr. Bishop commenced business as a manufacturer of philosophical instruments, on Laurel Street, removing, in 1851, to Pear Street, adding to his business the melting and working of platinum. This department increased to an extent which induced him to devote his attention entirely to it. Removing, in 1858, to Radnor, in Delaware County, he again, in 1865, changed his location to Sugartown, in Chester County. At the latter place, he erected a commodious laboratory and work-shop.

At the exhibition of the FRANKLIN INSTITUTE, in 1845, he received a premium for his exhibit of platinum; and at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, he was the only exhibitor of platinum work done in the United States, for which he received a medal and diploma.

C. B.

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## Franklin Institute.

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[*Proceedings of the Stated Meeting, held Wednesday, September 15, 1886.*]

HALL OF THE INSTITUTE, September 15, 1886.

CHAS. H. BANES, President, in the Chair.

Present—146 members and twenty-one visitors.

The election to membership of twelve persons was reported.

The special committees charged with the duty of preparing memorials of EMILE FRANÇOIS LOISEAU and HENRY P. M. BIRKINBINE, lately deceased members, presented reports, which were accepted and referred to the Committee on Publications.

The Chairman of the Committee on Science and the Arts reported the recommendation of the committee for the award of the ELLIOT CRESSON MEDAL to EUGENE H. and ALBERT H. COWLES, for their "invention of a new process in the metallurgical arts for the reduction of refractory substances;" and of the JOHN SCOTT LEGACY PREMIUM AND MEDAL to the same inventors, for their "Electric Smelting Furnace."

The recommendations were severally approved, and the Secretary was directed to take the usual measures to carry them into effect.

A communication was presented from PAUL LA COUR, of Copenhagen, Denmark, touching the recent award to PATRICK B. DELANEY, of New York, of the ELLIOT CRESSON MEDAL, for his "Improvements in Multiplex Telegraphy." Action thereon was deferred.

Mr. S. LLOYD WIEGAND read a brief communication, descriptive of "Schaefer's Compound for Improving the Quality of Steel," and exhibited the operation of the process and specimens. The compound is a mixture of linseed oil, resin, glycerine and carbon.

The Secretary's report included remarks on recent progress in electric smelting; a description of the Brush "Colossus," a dynamo-electric machine of great power, built for the Cowles Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company, for their electric smelting works, at Lockport, N. Y., together with the record of the trial tests of the same; and on the recent earthquake on the Atlantic border of the United States. In this connection, there were shown numerous illustrations, exhibiting the ruins of the city of Charleston.

PROF. E. J. HOUSTON offered some remarks on earthquake phenomena in general.

The Secretary exhibited and described the "Twin-Sheave System for Electric Cables and Wires," the invention of Messrs. Fondersmith & Wilson, of Philadelphia, which is claimed to be adapted for the reception and carrying of cables and wires underground, on the surface, against walls, through tunnels, or elsewhere, where facility is wanted for readily drawing cables in or out.

The meeting then proceeded to the final consideration of some proposed amendments to the By-laws, and was thereupon adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL, *Secretary*.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

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RECENT PROGRESS IN CHEMISTRY. An Address prepared at the Request of the New York Academy of Sciences, and read March 15, 1886. By H. Carrington Bolton, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry, Trinity College, Hartford.

This most interesting and valuable résumé of the world's advancement in one of the most fruitful as well as most difficult lines of research, is conceived in the spirit of Hofmann's *Introduction to Modern Chemistry*, of over twenty years ago. It is a scholarly though plain statement of the progress of chemistry as seen to-day by the eye of one of the masters of the science.

Professor Bolton has long since won the admiration and received the thanks of the chemical world for his pains-taking labors in collecting the widely scattered data in chemical literature bearing upon special branches of the subject. In this treatise, he gives a general view over the whole field, and in spite of his scientific caution and studious avoidance of the defect of merging the horizon of cloud with the horizon of earth, he does not conceal the commendable and cheery exultation of a worker in viewing the present state of the structure he has helped to rear.

This essay can be heartily recommended to the general reader as well as to the professional chemist. Each will be gratified and astonished at the census; indeed, the latter is likely to experience these emotions more than the former unless, which is unlikely, he shall have taken considerable time from his own investigations to obtain the information which Professor Bolton here gives. The discourse is divided into twenty-two paragraphs, and is followed by seventy-eight citations of authority for its various statements. Nos. 1 and 2, deal with the artificial difficulties of chemistry and the large number of workers in that field; No. 3, glances at the recent list of supposed new elements; No. 4, at the new physical apparatus for chemical discovery; No. 5,