

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

(Proceedings of the Stated Meeting held Wednesday, February 17th, 1909.)

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

PHILADELPHIA, February 18th, 1909.

President Walton Clark in the Chair.

Present, 98 members and visitors. Additions to Membership since last report, 4.

The following communication from the Board of Managers was presented:

"At the stated meeting of the Board of Managers held on the 10th instant, it was

"Resolved, That the Board of Managers recommend that the Institute confer upon Dr. Wm. H. Wahl the title of 'Honorary Secretary.'"

On motion duly made and seconded, the recommendation was unanimously adopted.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the current year:

Committee on Cabinet of Arts and Manufactures.

Cyrus Chambers, Jr.,	A. E. Outerbridge, Jr.,	Thomas Spencer,
Robert Job,	Tinius Olsen,	H. D. Stratton,
H. F. Colvin,	E. S. Powers,	Samuel Shoemaker,
	William H. Thorne.	

Committee on Cabinet of Models.

George S. Cullen,	Francis Head,	Werner Kaufmann,
Kern Dodge,	Henry Howson,	Strickland L. Kneass,
Spencer Fullerton,	R. L. Humphrey,	Coleman Sellers, Jr.,
	Warner Walter.	

Committee on Meetings.

James S. Rogers,	J. Logan Fitts,	Washington Jones,
James Christie,	Prof. Lewis M. Haupt,	J. Y. McConnell,
Kern Dodge,	Coleman Sellers, Jr.,	Paul Thompson,
	Dr. W. J. Williams.	

Committee on Cabinet of Minerals and Geological Specimens.

Dr. Andrew A. Blair,	Dr. F. A. Genth, Jr.,	Dr. Edwin J. Houston,
Prof. Amos P. Brown,	Dr. E. Goldsmith,	E. V. d'Inwilliers,
Dr. Persifor Frazer,	Dr. William H. Greene,	Prof. Arthur J. Rowland,
	Dr. William J. Williams.	

Committee on Library.

Edwin S. Balch,	Prof. Lewis M. Haupt,	Louis E. Levy.
W. H. Gartley,	Dr. H. F. Keller,	Edward S. Miles,
Richard Gilpin,	Dr. Henry Leffmann,	C. E. Ronaldson,
	Dr. George F. Stradling.	

Committee on Meteorology.

Clarence A. Hall,
Frank S. Hand,
Carl Hering,

Dr. George A. Hoadley,
W. N. Jennings,
Joseph T. Richards,
Henry Pemberton, Jr.

Prof. L. F. Rondinella,
Dr. Wilbur M. Stine,
George S. Webster,

Prof. W. S. Franklin of Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa., the speaker of the evening, was then introduced, and made an interesting address on the Gyroscope and Its Applications. The elementary dynamics of the Gyroscope and its various applications were considered. Special attention was given to its application in the Brennan Monorail Car.

The lecture was illustrated by apparatus and a model of the Brennan car in operation.

At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was tendered the speaker. Adjourned.

JAMES CHRISTIE,
Secretary.

LOUISIANA WORK IN WOOD PRESERVATION HAS GOOD RESULTS.

A CO-OPERATIVE agreement between the Forest Service and the North Louisiana Telephone Company for the investigation of economic methods for the preservation from decay of loblolly pine telephone poles has recently been carried out with gratifying results. The object of the government was to demonstrate that a creosote treatment could be applied successfully and at a low cost to loblolly pine poles. Such success was obtained that a company has been incorporated under the name of the Louisiana Creosoting Company, which will operate commercially the plant designed by the Forest Service.

The treating plant, which has been in operation since the latter part of October last, is of the "non-pressure," or "open tank" type. The installment of this style of plant costs much less than a plant of the "pressure" type, which is the ordinary type of plant for commercial purposes throughout the country. The "open-tank" system depends fundamentally upon the immersion of timber first in a hot bath of the preservative, followed by a rapid change to a cold bath. This method does away with the installment of high pressure and vacuum pumps and a treating cylinder of massive construction to withstand a high internal pressure, which are necessitated by a plant of the pressure type. It is usual, however, to install a treating cylinder of light construction where any great quantity of material is to be treated, since the cost of handling the material and loss of preservative through volatilization during the hot bath is in this way reduced to a minimum. Extensive experiments carried on by the Forest Service in recent years, have shown that the "open-tank" system is admirably adapted to the treatment of certain classes of timber, and especially so as regards loblolly pine.

The plant used in the experiment with the North Louisiana Telephone Company is equipped with a horizontal treating cylinder 50 feet long and 6 feet in diameter. It was designed by the Forest Service whose representative also supervised the construction and operated the plant for several months. During this period, 3,000 poles, 2,500 cross-arms, and 500 ties were treated, an amount sufficient to determine the most economical methods of treating these classes of material. The Forest Service therefore withdrew from the co-operation, and the plant is now being successfully operated by the owners.