

THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE last meeting of the season of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was held on Friday evening, June 7, at the Chemists' Club, 108 West 55th Street. Dr. Charles A. Doremus occupied the chair.

The chairman delivered his annual address on 'The Development of an American School of Chemistry,' in which he urged the advancement of chemical engineering by the development of originality and the assumption of greater responsibilities by chemists.

The secretary's report showed a net gain in membership of sixty during the year, and that twenty-nine papers had been read at the nine meetings which were held.

The election of officers for 1901-1902 resulted as follows:

Chairman—Professor Marston T. Bogert (Columbia University).

Vice-chairman—Durand Woodman (127 Pearl Street, N. Y.).

Secretary-treasurer—Professor J. A. Mathews (Columbia University).

Executive Committee—P. C. McIlhiney (Columbia), Professor E. H. Miller (Columbia), T. C. Stearns (Jersey City).

Delegates to the Scientific Alliance: Wm. McMurtrie, Professor Marston T. Bogert, H. C. Sherman (Columbia University).

Papers were read as follows:

M. T. Bogert and L. Boroschek—'Some Experiments with the Mono-nitro-orthophthalic Acids.'

H. C. Sherman, J. L. Danziger, L. Kohnstamm—'On the Maumené Tests for Oils.'

E. F. Kern—'On the Separation and Determination of Uranium.'

The paper on the 'Maumené Test for Oils' was a brief account of the principal results obtained in a series of experiments on several varieties of oils, with different modifications of the Maumené test. The common practice of diluting oils with petroleum to prevent too violent a reaction was found to give unsatisfactory results, the figures obtained from such mixtures being too high; as was also the case when the oil was dissolved in an equal weight of carbon bisulphide or chloroform. The necessity of

taking account of the specific heats of the oils and diluents was noted. In order to avoid the necessity of diluting the oil and the resulting uncertainty in the interpretation of results, the use of a weaker acid was proposed. Sulphuric acid of about 87 per cent. can be added directly to all the common oils and the test can be carried out in exactly the same way for the drying as for the non-drying oils. Even when calculated as 'specific temperature reaction' the results are somewhat influenced by the strength of the acid used, higher figures being obtained with the more concentrated acids. It was, therefore, recommended that the test be always made with acid of such strength as will give with water a rise of 33° to 34° C.

It was announced that the courtesies of the society had been extended to Professor Van't Hoff, and a motion was made and unanimously carried authorizing the chairman and executive committee to take such measures and make such preparations as might be required for entertaining Professor Van't Hoff.

The meeting then adjourned until October.

DURAND WOODMAN,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

EBBINGHAUS'S THEORY OF COLOR-VISION.

IN proposing his specialization of Hering's theory of color-vision, Ebbinghaus had for an object to give it a basis in fact by showing a connection between the kind of light which must be absorbed by the colored substances in the retina and the subjection distribution of color throughout the spectrum as revealed by color-equations—especially those of the partially color-blind. The connection was a very forced one from the beginning: the visual yellow could stand very well as the absorbent of the light necessary to the production of the sensation blue, but the visual purple ought to have been *blue* in color to fulfill its function of absorbent of the light that causes the sensation *yellow*, while in reality it is not even purple (in the English sense of the word), but magenta; and the existence of a visual green and a visual red was purely hypothetical. Thus of the four colored absorbent substances to which so