

slightly south and passing over New York. Another report states that a meteor was also seen over Rahway, N. J., which burst and came to the ground in four parts. This was probably another offshoot from the same original, and must have left it, if this hypothesis is correct, before it reached Passaic.

W. HALLOCK,
Secretary of Section.

SECTION OF BIOLOGY, DECEMBER 14, 1896.

PROF. J. G. CURTIS, Chairman, in the chair.

Dr. Arnold Graf made a preliminary report on 'Some New Fixing Fluids.'

Mr. J. H. McGregor read a paper entitled 'An Embryo of *Cryptobranchus*.' The embryo described is about 16 millimetres long, and is the first to be recorded of this species. Prominent among its external features are the excessive amount of yolk, the marked ventral flexure in the cervical region and the very early and almost simultaneous appearance of the two pairs of limbs. The dorsal surface is pigmented, the pigment cells being arranged in transverse bands, one band over each metamere of the body. Lateral line sense-organs can be distinguished. Among the most striking internal characters may be mentioned the dorso-ventral flattening of the notochord, the late appearance of entoderm and alimentary organs generally, due doubtless to the great mass of the yolk. The primordial skull is unusually well developed. The auditory vesicle has an endolymphatic duct ending blindly immediately under the skin on the top of the head. Along the sides of the body a system of organs occurs which are probably homologous with the embryonic sense-organs described by Beard in the sharks.

Dr. J. L. Wortman spoke of the *Ganodonta*, a new and primitive suborder of the Edentata from the Eocene of North America. One section or family of the suborder, viz: the *Stylinodontidæ*, is composed of *Hemiganus*, *Psittacotherium*, *Ectoganus* and *Stylinodon*, and forms a closely connected and consecutive phylum, reaching from the base of the Puerco to the Bridger formation and leading directly to the Gravi-grada or ground sloths. A second family, viz: the *Conoryctidæ*, composed of *Conoryctes*

and *Onychodectes*, may be regarded as ancestral to the Armadillos. The character and origin of the Edentate fauna of South America was discussed at length and the conclusion reached that its original home was in North America. It was further held that there was a migration to the southward before the close of the Eocene and that there must have then been an early land connection between the two continents.

C. L. BRISTOL,
Secretary.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE regular meeting of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was held, by invitation of Drs. Morton and Leeds, at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, on the 11th inst.

An unusually large representation from the Society's membership gave attention to the proceedings.

Dr. Leeds described the development of methods for the quantitative estimation of micro-organisms in waters with especial reference to the study and control of discolorations and offensive odors in water supplies, such as afflicted the city of Brooklyn in the summer just passed; a matter entirely distinct from the bacteriology of water in a pathogenic sense, and, therefore, in nowise at issue with work of that character.

Dr. Leeds recommended that engineers in charge of water supplies should familiarize themselves with the simple apparatus and manipulation necessary to enable them to foresee the approach of conditions favorable to the growth of these micro-organisms productive of color and odor, and thus be enabled to take such steps as may be applicable to the hindrance or prevention of their development.

After the reading of Dr. Leeds' paper the Society was invited to adjourn to Dr. Morton's lecture room, where all preparations were complete for the very interesting and beautiful experiments which followed.

The causes of the phenomena of fluorescence were explained, and many illustrations given by the aid of solutions, colored screens and monochromatic light. Particularly striking were the effects produced by the substance