A. Engler; Vice-Presidents, Robert Moore and D. S. H. Smith; Recording Secretary, William Trelease; Corresponding Secretary, Joseph Grindon; Treasurer, Enno Sander; Librarian, Gustav Hambach; Curators, Gustav Hambach, Julius Hurter; Directors, M. H. Post, Amand Ravold.

Dr. Amand Ravold spoke informally of formaldehyde gas as a disinfectant, and exhibited several forms of apparatus adapted to its use. It was stated that, although in confined spaces the gas has proved an effective disinfectant, which has the merit of not injuring the most delicate fabrics or polished metal surfaces, its germicide action in dwelling rooms has thus far proved less satisfactory than that of sulphur dioxide and chlorine, so far as it has been tested by the Health Department of the City of St. Louis; so that, as yet, the Health Department has not found it possible to employ it as a substitute for the older and in some respects more objectionable disinfectants.

Two persons were proposed for active membership in the Academy.

William Trelease.

Scientific Journals.

The American Geologist, January. Several important changes are to be adopted by this journal during the coming year. Professor N. H. Winchell is now the editor-in-chief, and there are eleven associate editors. A new department has been added, which is not covered by any other geological journal. This is a monthly authors' catalogue of American geological literature. Besides forming a part of the regular magazine, it is proposed to issue this catalogue on separate sheets for the benefit of librarians and investigators. The undertaking seems a very commendable one, and will form a valuable index. In the present number G. K. Gilbert gives a sketch of the life and works of the late Joseph F. James, with a portrait. N. H. Winchell elucidates the determination of the feldspars in a manner which will be found of much service to petrologists. The Pittsburg Coal Bed, one of the richest mineral deposits in the eastern United States, is described by I. C. White, in respect to its age, area and structure. The drilling for petroleum has shown that the coal area belonging to this bed is much smaller than has been estimated. The reviews of recent geological literature, personal and scientific news, and correspondence, are a feature of the magazine as heretofore.


J. Elliott Gilpin.

New Books.


