

ing, December 29, and continuing through Saturday. At the annual business meeting the society re-elected the retiring officers: *President*, Sir Frederic Stupart, 315 Bloom Street, Toronto, Canada; *vice-president*, W. J. Humphreys, U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.; *secretary-treasurer*, Charles F. Brooks, Clark University, Worcester, Mass. The Friday afternoon session was featured with a symposium on "Anemometry," at which S. P. Ferguson and R. N. Covert, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., presented a paper on "The measurement of the wind." The other contribution was by Alexander McAdie, Harvard University, Blue Hill Observatory, Readville, Mass. He exhibited and explained the barometer and the thermometer used by Dr. John Jeffries in 1784 when he made the first crossing of the English Channel by air. S. P. Ferguson opened the discussion after the reading of these papers. On Saturday morning, December 30, Sir Frederic Stupart gave his presidential address on "Meteorological stations in high latitudes." A prolonged and active discussion by numerous members of the society followed the address, particularly in regard to extending the network of meteorological stations into the polar regions and over the oceans. The society considered itself fortunate to have had at its meetings the heads of the meteorological services of both the United States and Canada, as well as a former director of this service for Argentina. The feeling is that the sessions were extremely helpful and stimulating.

The consensus of opinion is that the Boston meetings were exceedingly interesting and inspiring, and all the sessions were well attended. The success of the meeting was largely due to the untiring work of the local committee, and to the cordiality and hospitality of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. Both of these institutions were given votes of appreciation by societies associated with Section B.

SECTION C—CHEMISTRY

Vice-President and Chairman, W. Lash Miller.

Retiring vice-president, William D. Harkins.

Secretary pro tem., William D. Harkins, University of Chicago.

(Report by W. D. Harkins)

There were six well-attended sessions for chemistry at the Boston meeting, the first on Wednesday forenoon and the last on Friday forenoon, with two simultaneous sessions on Thursday afternoon. All but the two last-mentioned sessions were devoted to a continued symposium on the "Progress of chemistry," and the two exceptions might properly be considered as also belonging with the large symposium. One of the Thursday afternoon sessions was held jointly with Section G (Botanical Sciences) and the Physiological Section of the Botanical Society of America, with a symposium of invited papers on "Photosynthesis in plants and other aspects of photochemistry." The other Thursday afternoon session was a joint one with Section B (Physics) and the American Physical Society, with the retiring vice-presidential address for Section B (given by G. W. Stewart, State University of Iowa) followed by a symposium of invited papers, arranged by the physicists, on "Ionization potentials and atomic radiation."

The address of W. D. Harkins, retiring vice-president of Section C, was given on Wednesday afternoon, on "Atomic structure and the general system of isotopes." The symposium on "Photosynthesis in plants and other aspects of photochemistry" embraced the following titles: "Inventory of the world supply of energy," by E. E. Slosson, Science Service, Washington, D. C.; "Analysis of the mechanism of photosynthesis," by H. A. Spoehr, Carnegie Institution of Washington; "The nature of photochemical reactions," by W. T. Bovie, Harvard Medical School; "Photochemical reaction," by S. E. Sheppard, Eastman Kodak Company, and "Carbohydrate metabolism," by Charles O. Appleman, University of Maryland.

This symposium was very largely attended and the papers proved to be very valuable and inspiring. The very great importance of photosynthesis in plants was specially emphasized, with the result that the section recommended to the council that a committee on this subject be organized, to make a survey of the field and aid research workers to cooperate in advancing our knowledge of the photosynthetic process as rapidly as possible. The council authorized such a committee and instructed the general

secretary to take steps to organize it.

It was the general opinion, expressed by those in attendance, that the program gave a most interesting and important summary of progress in chemistry, particularly with reference to those topics that are of most interest to other scientists and to the public. Most of the papers presented were discussed at length by the chemists present, and the discussion was enlivened by the witty and relevant remarks and suggestions of the chairman.

On nomination by the section, the council elected E. W. Washburn, of the National Research Council, to be the chairman of the section and association vice-president for the section, for 1923. On similar nomination W. D. Harkins was elected to be secretary of Section C for the remainder of the secretarial term, expiring at the end of the Washington meeting, December, 1924. Gerhard Dietrichson, of the University of Illinois, was elected assistant secretary, and two members of the section committee were elected, as follows: For the four-year term expiring at the end of 1925, Gregory Paul Baxter, Harvard University; for the four-year term expiring at the end of 1926, Roger Adams, University of Illinois.

A more complete report on the sessions of Section C at Boston will appear in a later issue of SCIENCE, as will also the vice-presidential address for the section.

SECTION D—ASTRONOMY

Vice-president and Chairman, Otto Klotz.

Retiring vice-president, S. A. Mitchell.

Secretary, F. R. Moulton, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

(Report by F. R. Moulton)

Section D held its meeting on Friday afternoon, December 29, in joint session with the American Astronomical Society. In the absence of Professor S. A. Mitchell, his retiring vice-presidential address on "Some consequences of ionization" was read by Dr. Slocum. Other meetings were held, under the auspices of the American Astronomical Society, on Wednesday morning, Thursday morning and afternoon and Friday morning. The section was adjourned Wednesday afternoon to attend the symposium on "Space and time" given by Section A and the American Mathematical Society. On Wednesday evening the section and the American Astronomical Society

were entertained by Dr. and Mrs. Shapley at the Harvard College Observatory.

At the business session of Section D, Dr. Heber D. Curtis, Allegheny Observatory, Pittsburgh, Pa., was nominated for vice-president for Section D for 1923, and Dr. Charles G. Abbott, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., was elected member of the sectional committee for the term expiring December 31, 1926.

THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

President, W. W. Campbell.

Secretary, Joel Stebbins, Washburn Observatory, Madison, Wis.

(Report by Joel Stebbins)

The American Astronomical Society had a successful meeting, about eighty members being present. Sessions were held on three days, and the society took the opportunity to join the meetings of other sections, including the symposium on "Space and time" of Section A and a joint session for papers of common interest with the American Physical Society. In the case of the physical papers a prominent physicist stated that anything he understood was probably astronomy and what he did not understand must have been physics. In a session with Section D the retiring address of Vice-president S. A. Mitchell on "The importance of ionization" included a practical summary of certain developments in modern physics which are of prime importance in their astronomical application.

In addition to the emphasis on physics, the meeting brought out about half a dozen papers in each of the following fields: astronomical spectroscopy, stellar parallaxes, positions and proper motions of stars, and double and variable stars. One might suppose that by the twentieth century astronomers would have learned all possible ways of setting up their instruments, but no less than three papers included notes on methods of adjustment of equatorial telescopes, special devices being occasioned by the new forms of instruments which are being brought into use.

In 1918 the society held at Cambridge what turned out to be a farewell meeting in honor of the late Professor Edward C. Pickering, director of the Harvard Observatory for more than forty years, and it was a satisfaction for the members to visit once more the scene of

Science

SECTION C—CHEMISTRY

Science **57** (1465), 110-111.
DOI: 10.1126/science.57.1465.110

ARTICLE TOOLS <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/57/1465/110.citation>

PERMISSIONS <http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 1923 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.