

Section K, Physiology and Experimental Medicine.—Vice-president, Professor Wm. T. Sedgwick, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.; secretary, Dr. Wm. J. Gies, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City.

At New Orleans in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science there will meet:

The American Chemical Society.—President, F. P. Venable, University of North Carolina; secretary, Dr. William A. Noyes, the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

The Botanical Society of America.—January 4. President, Professor R. A. Harper, University of Wisconsin; secretary, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, N. Y. Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City.

The Association of Economic Entomologists.—January 1, 2, 3. President, Professor H. Garman, Lexington, Ky.; secretary, Professor H. E. Summers, Ames, Iowa.

The American Mycological Society.—January 1-4. President, Chas. H. Peck, state botanist, Albany, N. Y.; secretary, C. L. Shear, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

At Ann Arbor will meet:

The American Society of Naturalists.—President, Professor William James, Harvard University; secretary, Professor W. E. Castle, Harvard University. President (Central Branch), Professor H. H. Donaldson, University of Chicago; secretary, Professor W. J. Moenkhaus, Indiana University. The Eastern Branch will not meet this year.

The American Society of Zoologists (Eastern and Central Branches).—December 28, 29, 30. President (Eastern Branch), Professor W. E. Castle, Harvard University; secretary, Professor H. S. Pratt, Haverford College. President (Central Branch), Professor Frank R. Lillie, University of Chicago; secretary, Professor C. E. McClung, University of Kansas.

The Society of American Bacteriologists.—December 28, 29. President, Professor Edwin O. Jordan, University of Chicago; secretary, Professor Frederic P. Gorham, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

The American Physiological Society.—December 27, 28. President, Professor W. H. Howell, the Johns Hopkins University; secretary, Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, New Haven.

The Association of American Anatomists.—December 27, 28, 29. President, Professor Charles

S. Minot, Harvard Medical School; secretary, Professor G. Carl Huber, 333 East Ann St., Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology.—December 27, 28, 29. President, Professor E. C. Jeffrey, Harvard University; secretary, Professor W. F. Ganong, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

At New York City will meet:

The Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America.—December 28. President, Professor Simon Newcomb; secretary, Professor Geo. C. Comstock, Washburn Observatory, Madison, Wis.

The American Physical Society.—December 29, 30. President, Professor Carl Barus, Brown University; secretary, Professor Ernest Merritt, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

The American Mathematical Society.—December 28, 29. President, Professor W. F. Osgood, Harvard University; secretary, Professor F. N. Cole, Columbia University.

At Cambridge will meet:

The American Psychological Association.—December 27-29. President, Professor Mary Whiton Calkins, Wellesley College; secretary, Professor Wm. Harper Davis, Lehigh University.

The American Philosophical Association.—December 27-29. President, Professor John Dewey, Columbia University; secretary, Professor John Grier Hibben, Princeton University.

At Ithaca will meet:

The American Anthropological Association.—December 27-29. President, Professor F. W. Putnam, Harvard University; secretary, Dr. Geo. Grant MacCurdy, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

At Ottawa will meet:

The Geological Society of America.—December 27, 28, 29. President, Professor Raphael Pumphelly; secretary, Professor Herman L. Fairchild, Rochester, N. Y.

THE ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in the Middle States and Maryland was held on Saturday, December 2, in affiliation with the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland.

The following papers were presented:

PROFESSOR H. S. WHITE, Vassar College: 'How should the College Teach Analytic Geometry?'

MR. H. R. HIGLY, Pennsylvania College: 'Suggestions for the First Twelve Lessons in Demonstrative Geometry.'

DR. JOHN S. FRENCH, Jacob Tome Institute, Port Deposit: 'Some Essentials of the Successful Mathematics Teacher.'

DR. H. A. CONVERSE, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute: 'The Teaching of Geometry.'

The association was disappointed at not being able to listen to a paper on 'The Teaching of Pure and Applied Mathematics,' which the program announced was to be read by President R. S. Woodward, of the Carnegie Institution, Washington.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—Professor E. S. Crawley, University of Pennsylvania.

Vice-President—Dr. John S. French, Jacob Tome Institute, Port Deposit, Md.

Secretary and Treasurer—Dr. J. T. Rorer, Central High School, Philadelphia, Pa.

Members of the Council—Professor W. H. Metzler, Syracuse University; Miss L. G. Simons, New York City Normal College; Dr. J. L. Patterson, Chestnut Hill Academy, Philadelphia, Pa.; Professor W. H. Maltbie, Woman's College of Baltimore.

At the meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That this association approve of the organization of a national federation of existing associations of teachers of mathematics in which each association shall preserve its own organization and individuality and which shall have among its objects the joint support of publication. In the federation should be included only societies representing territory as extensive at least as one state.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE RELATIONS OF MUSEUMS TO EXPERTS AND SYSTEMATISTS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN WORKING UP AND NAMING COLLECTIONS.

From time to time the writer has met those who have maintained the view that a scientific expert is entitled out of collections, whether submitted to him by individuals or by museums, to retain for his own use whatever portion of such collections he may desire to reserve for himself, after having described them. Some years ago a rather well-known

entomologist in correspondence laid down the proposition that 'it is the unwritten but universal law that an expert to whom scientific material is submitted for study is entitled to retain therefrom anything he pleases,' and further added the statement that 'it is the indefeasible right of an expert to retain for his own use anything which he may wish to reserve out of the collections submitted to him for study.' These statements being wholly contrary to the teachings of his own experience and observation, the writer was moved to address a circular letter of inquiry to a large number of the most eminent scientific men charged with the administration of the affairs of museums in America and in Europe, inquiring whether they knew of the existence of any such 'unwritten law' or recognized any such 'indefeasible right' on the part of experts to whom they might entrust material for study. The persons to whom this circular letter was addressed are men who stand in the very foremost ranks of science, among them the heads of the greatest museums in Europe and America, and a score of the most eminent investigators along biological lines now living.

The writer received not merely a series of replies upon the blanks provided in the circular letter for answers, but in a number of cases lengthy and interesting letters, which showed that some of the gentlemen addressed had encountered those who held this view, which they reprobated as strongly as does the writer himself. Others expressed unmitigated astonishment that any one should have the temerity to propound such propositions, declaring them to be altogether unheard of and monstrous. Answers were received from forty-four gentlemen in America, who are recognized as the highest authorities in their respective lines of research. Only three of these appeared to claim that usage demands that the expert should be allowed to retain for his own use what he may desire. Two of these were entomologists; one was a botanist. The others most unqualifiedly denied the truth of the propositions and treated them as ridiculous. Twenty replies were received from the