

THE WELLESLEY COLLEGE SCIENCE CLUB.

At the November meeting of the Wellesley College Science Club, Dr. J. C. Bell presented a paper on the 'Reactions of the Crayfish to Sensory Stimuli.'

His experiments show that the animals react negatively to white light of different intensities in the proportion of two to one. Difference of intensity, within the limits used, causes no change in the proportion. Increase of temperature slightly increases the proportion. Green, yellow and blue, when compared with white light, show only a slightly greater number of reactions, but in the combination red-white the red has 73 per cent. of the reactions.

Experiments upon the chemical sense, which are still in progress, go to show that the animals are sensitive to chemical stimuli over the whole surface of the body, but particularly upon the anterior appendages. There is no evidence whatever of hearing, and the animals depend chiefly upon touch for the seizure of food.

GRACE E. DAVIS,
Secretary.

THE BERKELEY FOLK-LORE CLUB.

The second regular meeting of the club during 1905-6 was held in the Faculty Club of the University of California, on Tuesday evening, November 28. President Lange called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The following new members were elected: Professor H. A. Overstreet, Mr. A. H. Allen and Professor W. F. Bade.

Professor F. B. Dresslar read a paper on 'Some Studies in Superstition,' based on superstitions known to and in part credited by advanced school students on the Pacific coast. Special attention was paid to the degree of credence given to superstitions. Particular attention was also given by the speaker to the subject of mental preference for odd numbers. At its conclusion Professor Dresslar's paper was discussed by the members.

The meeting was adjourned.

A. L. KROEBER,
Secretary.

THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS.

The St. Louis Chemical Society held its usual monthly meeting on January 8. Mr. H. E. Wiedemann presented a paper entitled 'The By-products of the Packing House.' Special emphasis was laid on the successful work of the chemist, which has transformed the waste-heap of former days into a large number of useful products.

C. J. BORGMAYER,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

PLEASE EXCUSE THE KELEP.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It is naturally a deep disappointment to learn from a recent number of SCIENCE that my efforts to elucidate the habits of the kelep have fallen so far short of the high ideals of entomological literature which Professor William Morton Wheeler advocates. This is largely my own fault, no doubt, as Professor Wheeler seems to intimate. But with sufficient scolding one must needs improve. The devotion of so many columns of SCIENCE to this missionary effort is certainly to be appreciated. That Professor Wheeler has felt it worth while to resume his admonitions constitutes also a welcome assurance that the future no longer appears altogether hopeless, for the last of his previous instalments closed with a despairing vow of eternal silence 'until the Greek Kalends,' or something to that effect, if I remember correctly.

Nevertheless, my efforts are largely foredoomed to failure, on account of the very backward and unscientific habits of my insect pets. Unlike true, civilized ants, they have not learned the gentle art of regurgitation, but persist in going about with large, round drops of nectar on their bills. They regularly carry it into their nests in this way, and feed it to their friends and families without having once swallowed it, or spewed it up again. This incredible conduct is very easy of observation. It has been witnessed by a dozen or more of my colleagues, and I have no doubt that Professor Wheeler will be able to verify it whenever he has time to undertake an investigation of the subject.