

## MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.

ORTON HALL, March 2, 1903.

Mr. Quiroga gave a paper on his native country, Argentina. It served to call the attention of those who heard it, to the fact that Argentina is not to be compared with such Latin-American countries as Venezuela and the Central American Republics. The facts given and the pictures exhibited showed very plainly that in prosperity and commercial advancement the country is on a level with the United States. The paper took up exhaustively the geographical relations, topography, geology, physical geography, climate, agriculture, transportation, industries and education. Whenever practicable tables were given showing comparisons with the United States. In some respects, for example in the animal industries, the comparison was decidedly in favor of Argentina.

Prof. Osborn stated that as he read the census reports he made out a better case for the United States than did Mr. Quiroga.

The second paper was by Prof. Schaffner on "Mendel's Law of Heredity." He gave a short history of Mendel's work and explained the meaning of the law. In order to get the characters of only one of the parents in the offspring, the sex cells from which it comes must have been pure. If we believe that in the reduction division of the sex cells the division is longitudinal, there is no possibility of an unequal distribution of hereditary tendencies. But in a transverse division, segregation of characters is possible. In cytology there is nothing to indicate the percentage of hybrids being as Mendel found it. He thought that the ratio must be dependent rather on some balance of external conditions. He also questioned whether the statistical method was entirely reliable.

ROBERT F. GRIGGS, *Secretary.*

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