
MEETINGS OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.

ORTON HALL, January 12, 1914.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:30 and the minutes were read and approved. The following were elected to membership: Norman Sherer, Floyd De Lashmut, Clayton Long, Maxwell Scarff, Margurite Ickes, Francis E. Piper, Harold Peebles and Christian R. Gaiser.

The first paper of the evening was by Prof. Durrant, on the Biology of the Guinea Pig. Prof. Durrant kept Prof. Barrows' Guinea pigs during the summer when the observations presented were made. The Guinea pig belongs to the order of Rodentia, to which order also belongs the water-pig of South America, which sometimes reaches a length of five or six feet and a height of eighteen or twenty inches. The Guinea pig is very prolific, the period of gestation being 66 or 67 days. The time of mating after birth is from five days to several weeks. The female is from 42 to 62 days old at the time of mating. As to the number of young in a litter, Prof. Durrant made several observations of which the following are the results:

Four litters of two each, twelve litters of three each, three litters of four each.

There is a great variation in the size of the young, but no relation between the size and the number in the litter.

In one case he had a rough coat female crossed with a white male, which produced a white, red and black offspring. The same parents at a later time had a yellow rough coat young one.

The next paper on the program was a review of Herrick's paper, "The Origin and Evolution of the Cortex," by Miss Ickes. Instincts are present because the tracts have been inherited; a dilemma is the cause of consciousness. Consciousness is not a simple element, but is a circuit. One of the basic paths into the cortex is from the thalamus and the thalamus is already complex. The physical state has much to do with the path that the impulse takes. A lower form must depend on its reflexes, while a higher form may determine the solution of its difficulties by means of its cortex.

The rest of the evening was given over to the discussion of the meetings at Atlanta and Philadelphia. Prof. Osborn reported on the zoological meeting at Atlanta. There was a discussion on the teaching of sex hygiene and another as to whether it was not of more importance to teach life actions rather than morphology in the first year course of zoology.

Professor Griggs gave a report of the papers read before the botanical society. Professor Barrows reported a good attendance at Philadelphia and especially mentioned Riddle's work on the control of sex in pigeons.

Professor Barrows reported that he had two tailless cats from which he is trying to breed a race of tailless animals. Mr. King reported on some tree-hoppers which hibernate on peach twigs. Mr. Shadle reported that a fish-hawk had been taken at Lockbourne. Professor Griggs told of a collection of trees of Georgia that he saw while at Atlanta.

BLANCHE McAVOY, *Secretary.*

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