

MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.

ORTON HALL, March 2, 1914.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by the President, Mr. Kostir; the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

C. J. Reed, R. R. Robinson and Percy Wiltberger were elected to membership. The First paper of the evening was by Prof. A. P. Weiss on "the Nature of Inhibition as a Nervous Function."

The paper considered a way in which the modification which occurs in all human instinctive reflexes as maturity is reached, could be explained by assuming that a nervous current may deflect a weaker one and thus bring about a combination of reflexes not present at birth, but which results in characteristically adult behavior. In this paper, inhibition (usually described as a checking or blocking mechanism) is considered as being a condition in which one nervous process deflects another and thus brings about a modification of the original response.

The next part of the program was a symposium on "The Determination of Sex." Prof. Schaffner talked on sex determination as demonstrated in plants. In some plants the sex can be changed; *Equisetum* for example, in which both gametophytes are produced from spores that look to be identical. In the higher plants the sex has been determined before reduction takes place.

Miss Ickes explained the chromosome theory of sex determination. According to this theory there is an accessory chromosome, the presence or absence of which determines the sex. Guyer found the accessory chromosome in guinea fowls, in chickens and in man. Nematodes and insects show the accessory chromosome.

Prof. Barrows gave a short report of Dr. Riddle's work with Dr. Whitman's pigeons. If the eggs are taken away as soon as laid and a long series of eggs obtained, those at the beginning of the series will produce males while those toward the end of the series will produce females. In the middle of the series the individuals show graded psychological attributes.

The meeting then adjourned.

BLANCHE McAVOY, Secy.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science will be held on November 26-28, at The Ohio State University, Columbus.