

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

XVI.—PROCEEDINGS.

Regular meeting, June 3d, 1881.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M., Dr. A. R. LEEDS in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and, after corrections, were approved.

There was no report from the Board of Directors.

The committee appointed to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Papers and Publications, reported that they had selected Dr. ENDEMANN for the position. This recommendation being put to the Society, it was carried unanimously.

The committee appointed to take steps for the drawing up of an obituary notice of Dr. GOLDMARK, reported that Dr. O. H. KRAUSE had been asked to undertake that duty.

The committee appointed to inquire into the question of filling the vacancy in the Board of Directors, caused by Dr. GOLDMARK's death, from a legal point of view had no report at present.

The resignation of Mr. W. M. WHEATLEY was then read, and accepted.

Mr. A. P. HALLOCK was then balloted for and duly elected a member of the Society.

After which the following paper was read.

“On the Analysis of Elephants' Milk.” By Dr. CHAS. A. DOREMUS.

In discussing this paper, Dr. LEEDS remarked that the ash closely approximated to that of human milk. He also said, commenting on the difficulty mentioned by Dr. DOREMUS in evaporating the milk, that 10 c.c. of milk upon 30 c.c. of ignited sand worked very well, causing no charring; by employing a large excess of sand the milk does not touch the sides of the dish.

Dr. E. R. SQUIBB then took the chair, and the following paper was read:

“On the Adulteration of Food, Drink and Drugs, from the Chemist's Standpoint, and on the Attitude of Chemists in the matter of the Appointment of Government Analysts.” By Dr. A. R. LEEDS.

Mr. ELLIOTT asked Dr. LEEDS if he knew the composition of the material insoluble in water, which he had found in condensed milk, and Dr. LEEDS replied that he had not yet completed the analysis. To a further inquiry of Mr. ELLIOTT, Dr. LEEDS remarked that he had not made any tests for gelatine in condensed milk.

Dr. DOREMUS remarked that one of the first things to decide in this question of adulteration is, "What is adulteration?" and discussed at some length the matter of alum baking powder, claiming that at the present time there is no proof that they are unwholesome.

Dr. E. R. SQUIBB remarked that he looked upon the matter from a different standpoint than most chemists, and would punish as a fraud anything that was sold and not found as represented. He condemned in strong terms the sale of quack medicines, and remarked that the American people take from five to six times as much medicine, *per capita*, as any other nation.

Mr. EIMER also made some remarks upon the enormous quantities of patent medicines sold in the United States.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

ARTHUR H. ELLIOTT,

Recording Secretary, pro tem.

XVII.—ON THE COMPOSITION OF ELEPHANTS' MILK.

By CHARLES A. DOREMUS, M.D., Ph.D.

(Read before the American Chemical Society June 3d, 1881.)

Noticing the recent advertisement in this City regarding the "baby elephant," it occurred to me that perhaps no analysis of the milk of this species of the mammalia had been recorded. This I found corroborated, for though the milk of many animals had been subjected to analysis, no opportunity had ever presented itself to obtain elephants' milk.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Jas. A. Bailey, I was enabled to procure samples of the milk on several occasions.

On March 10th, 1880, the elephant Hebe gave birth to the female calf America. Hebe is now twenty-eight years old, and the father of the calf, Mandrie, thirty-two. Since the birth of the "baby," the mother has been in excellent health except during about ten days, when she suffered from a slight indisposition which soon left her.