

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Regular meeting was held in the Auditorium of Los Angeles Public Library, December 6th, 1927 at 8 P. M. The lecture of the evening was given by Colonel J. R. White, Superintendent of General Grant and Sequoia National Parks whose subject was "Sequoia Park and the Big Trees." The talk was illustrated by beautifully colored lantern slides, and all who attended, were filled with desire to visit our California giant groves.

Regular meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Los Angeles Public Library January 3rd, 1928 at 8 P. M. Alfred Cookman, M. S., President of the Nature Club, and instructor in biology in the Polytechnic High School, gave an address on "Two Creatures Feared and Hated by Man." The reference being to spiders and snakes. The speaker illustrated his instructive talk with lantern slides and specimens from his collection, both living and preserved. Much time was given to the most deadly of insects the "Black Widow" and valuable advice given to those who might be so unfortunate as to be victims of its bite. Interesting statistics were given as to the relative toxicity of the venom of these animal groups. To offset this unsavory power of these creatures the lecturer spent time in speaking of the beauty of workmanship and architectural ability of the Arachnidæ and the many good points of the reptiles, often lost sight of by Man in his instinctive fear of the whole group.

Regular meeting was held Feb. 17th at 8 P. M. in the Public Library. "The National Parks and Policies Governing their Protection," was the subject of the evening, and was illustrated by lantern slides and reels of film depicting the natural beauties of our parks. We had three speakers, Hon. Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park Service, Horace M. Albright, Supt. of the Yellowstone, and Cl. J. R. White, Supt. of Sequoia. Time was devoted to showing the care taken by our government in preserving these natural wonderlands, and in answer to criticisms by those not fully informed.

Regular meeting was held in the Artland Club Auditorium on Feb. 20th. A Danish musical program was followed by a lecture on "The Dutch East Indies," by Baron Thoe Swartzenberg who illustrated the life of his people in this distant colony by beautifully colored slides. The result of the talk was the realization of the masterful colonizing ability of the Hollanders, and a desire to know better the interesting natives of those islands.

Regular meeting held in Auditorium of Public Library on March 6th. The subject of the evening was "The Antiquity of Man," by Dr. John A. Comstock, who traced the evidence of Man from the earliest discovery of a primitive brute to the coming of those prehistoric artists who painted and carved the walls of the caves of Southern France. The talk was illustrated by lantern slides, instructive charts and diagrams, and flint implements of early European Man from the collection of Dr. R. H. Swift, showing clearly Man's rise to the dominant figure we find him at the dawn of history.

Regular meeting of Academy held in Auditorium of Public Library April 3rd. "The Lily, Iris and Orchid of California" was the subject of the address of the evening by F. M. Fultz, illustrated by beautiful lantern slides of these flowers from his new book on the subject.

Regular meeting in the Auditorium of the Polytechnic High School was held April 10th. An illustrated lecture by Mary Proctor, noted English Astronomer and daughter of the late Richard A. Proctor, was given on "The Romance of the Sun and Moon," a wonderfully told story of Man's progress in his knowledge of the Universe in which he lives.

On April 13th the first monthly meeting of the newly formed Archaeological Section of the Academy was held in the County Museum. An illustrated lecture on "The Ruins of the Mesa Verde," by Dr. J. A. Comstock was followed by a discussion on recent finds placing the Antiquity of Man in America by the members of the section present. Invitation to join this new section, and take active part in its work was extended to all members.

May 1, 1928. A lecture was held in the L. A. Public Library, the subject being "The Islands of the Santa Barbara Channel", presented by Mr. Norman Stewart of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The speaker touched on the history, archæology and geological formation of these comparatively little known islands of our southern coast. His presentation gave strong influence to the plea for the acquiring and preservation of Santa Cruz Island, under the administration of the State Parks Commission.

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On May 11th, the second meeting of the Archæological Section of the Academy was held at the Los Angeles Museum. The Section showed a very gratifying growth in greatly increased attendance. The program was given by Mr. C. Warren Temple, and was illustrated with slides prepared from the speaker's photographs. The subject, "Araba Petra" was presented in a graphic and entertaining manner, and gave a vivid impression of the rock-hewn temples and marvelous preservations of this closely guarded Greco-Roman citadel. Mr. Temple made three trips to the mountain encircled valley of Petra, where few travelers have been able to penetrate. His photographic successes while there were made possible largely through his knowledge of the Bedouin language, customs and religious prejudices, and his personal friendship with certain chiefs.

May 17th, 8:00 P.M., in the Lecture Hall of the Artland Club. The Astronomical Section sponsored a lecture by Mr. Harry K. Sargent, on "Stars and Planets". This was a popularization of the subject of the planetary relations of our solar system, illustrated with lantern slides.

DR. R. H. SWIFT, Secretary.

