

THE TAR HEEL.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

DR. BASKERVILLE LECTURES.

Subject Was "The Elements: Verified and Unverified."

At the regular monthly meeting of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society Tuesday night, Dr. Chas. Baskerville presented his paper on "The Elements: Verified and Unverified," read at the St. Louis meeting of the American Chemical Society.

The first portion of the address was concerned with the development of the idea of atoms by which a definition of the term element was arrived at. An extended table of elements which have been proposed was submitted. The following statement was made after reference to the work of Lodge, J. J. Thomson and Crookes: "If the electrons of all elements are exactly alike, or, in other words, if there is but one matter, just as there is but one force, and if the elements be but the various manifestations of that one matter, due to a different orbital arrangement of the electrons, it would seem that we are fast returning to the conceptions of the middle-age alchemists. The transmutation of metals involves but the modification of the arrangement of the electrons."

The reasons for the large number of proposed elements were given and especial emphasis was laid upon the difficulties in proving their claims. For instance, the extreme minuteness in which they occur, difficulty of their extraction, and the attendant cost, with the usual scientific poverty. Furthermore, if anything new is had, the difficulties confronting chemists in proving positively that the substance is truly new, were pointed out. Reference was made to the deficiencies of the spectroscope, the lack of uniformity in observations; difficulties to be overcome in comparing absorption spectra, the advantages and disadvantages of phosphorescent and reversion spectre. Without doubt the spectroscopic criteria are the most valuable we have in judging finally the elements, and mayhap will remain so, but in his humble opinion, such have not alone sufficient authority, as yet, to usher the aspirant to a place among the elect. The contention frames itself, however, in an expression of the need for uniformity.

Reference is made to suggestions as to the variability of atomic weights and the grounds upon which atomic weights were accepted. The speaker, however, quoted from Berthelot "*La Critique est facile, mais l'art est difficile.*" but especially emphasized that all our laws have their limitations.

It was suggested that some such institution as, for example, the Carnegie Institution, should establish a commission for judging the claims of all novel materials as elements.

Having dealt with the speculations of others, the speaker indulged in a novel speculation of his own,

that whereas the density of the earth is about twice as great as the average density of the shell of the earth ten miles, the possible existence of elements with very high atomic weights was suggested. Following out the general idea of the genesis of the elements, he stated that the logic of Larmor's theory, involving the idea of an ionic substratum of matter, the support of J. J. Thomson's experiments, the confirmation of Zeeman's phenomenon, the emanations of Rutherford, Martin's explanations, cannot fail to cause credence in the correctness of Crookes' idea of a fourth state of matter.

These and the facts that most of the elements with high atomic weights, in fact, all above 200 (thallium not reported on), exhibit radioactive properties, are doubtless closely associated and have to do with the eventual composition of matter. He had unverified observations which go to show the existence of at least one element with a very high atomic weight. If it be confirmed, then we have them now or they are making, and probably breaking up, as shown by that marvellous class of radio-active elements in the discovery of which the Curies have been pioneers.

In conclusion he said: "If our ideas, that all known elements come from some primordial material, be true, then it stands to reason that we are coming in time perhaps to that fixed thing, a frozen ether, the fifth state of matter. I may make use of dangerous analogy and liken our known elements, arranged in a perfected, natural system, as the visible material spectrum, while electrons, etc. constitute the ultra-violet and *cosmyle* composes the infra-red, either one of the latter by proper conditions being convertible into perceptible elemental matter."

Mr. W. L. Allen Heard From Again.

The Roanoke, Va., Times, of last Tuesday has the following about a gentleman we will recall:

"W. L. Allen has mysteriously disappeared from Roanoke, and there are several business men who would like very much to ascertain his whereabouts, and with the aid of the police they expect to find him soon. Allen came to Roanoke first on Thanksgiving day as the coach for the Davidson College foot ball team, and will be remembered as being a tall, thin young-fellow wearing a light gray suit of clothes and a college cap. He came back to Roanoke about five weeks ago and engaged room and board at one of the leading hotels. He left his hotel bill unpaid, and in addition passed what is alleged to be a worthless check for \$50 on a leading haberdasher, receiving a \$40 suit of clothing. He also secured 500 miles of transportation from the publisher of a weekly newspaper under the pretense that he would go out of the city to adjoining towns

and secure advertising matter. There are probably others whom he has worked, but no complaint has yet been made to the authorities. Allen claimed that he was a native of Michigan, and it is more than likely that he has gone there. He left Roanoke about the first day of this year."

This man Allen is the same guy that signed the affidavit for Clemson College containing a scurrilous reflection on the officials in the Clemson Carolina game.

Quips on a Modern Novel.

The pieces of the girl who burst into tears have been put together again and she is now as whole as ever.

The youth whose face fell immediately picked it up again and after dusting it, restored it to its former position.

Water was thrown on the burning gaze of the villain, soon extinguishing it, but it was grossly insulting to the villain.

The remains of the man who exploded with laughter were collected in a basket and sent to a repair shop.

The piercing eye of the old gentleman went clean through a fool one day without hurting him in the least, but the point was so dulled that it hasn't been used since.

The man with the grating laugh is now employed in a restaurant and uses the laugh in the preparation of coconut pies and pineapple custards.

The bitter smile of the heroine has been diluted with water and sugar added till it is now quite pleasant to the taste.

Something fell into the open countenance of the hero one day, closing it up so effectively that he hasn't spoken a word since. Some say it was her father's fist.

The woman whose lips curled got so angry because her hair wouldn't do likewise that she committed suicide.

The lowering brow of the old man kept on lowering until it struck the floor, exploded and blew his head off.

The men all said that the eyes of the heroine were like diamonds, her lips like rubies, her teeth like pearls. The women all said that they were only cheap paste imitations.

John—"Do they refer to the law schools as their alma mate?"

Sam—"No; they call it their mother-in-law."

—Ex.

I stood on the bridge at midnight.

And the clock was striking the hour;

The hour rose up indignant

And struck back with all its power.

—Ex

A Reply to Mr. Caspar Whitney's Charges.

We read in the January issue of *Outing* a severe criticism of athletics as conducted at the University of Virginia and at other Southern colleges. Mr. Caspar Whitney in his review of the foot ball season of 1903 says: "Cumberland appears with a pair of summer-nine ball players. The same is true of the Virginia and North Carolina teams—which, however, have been always a law unto themselves." As a prelude to his "Foot Ball Ranking," he says: "No college is eligible for consideration here whose disregard for wholesome sport is patent and persistent." In the long list of teams which follows, Virginia, North Carolina and Blacksburg are omitted.

In answer to the first charge in regard to the playing of summer-nine players, we will say that if this is a sin against athletic morals it is shared by Virginia with such institutions as Princeton and Yale. No one can deny that players from those colleges have frequently earned their board during the summer months by playing up teams in the Adirondacks and other places.

Secondly, we wish to inquire of Mr. Whitney in what ways Virginia has shown a patent and persistent disregard of wholesome sport. If he refers to rowdiness in play, we will refer him to that prominent Yale athlete who stated that the Virginia-North Carolina contest was the first real foot ball game he had ever seen, terming the Northern foot ball games mere fights. If he refers to the playing of men tainted with professionalism, it is sufficient to call attention to the Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Association, which watches this matter with all the jealousy that rivalry can inspire. We will add, however, that he reflects directly upon a member of our Faculty who has been appointed to guard the University's honor in this matter.

—College Topics.

Law School Elect Officers.

The Law School has elected the following officers for the spring term:

President, R. S. Stewart.
First Vice President, John Carpenter.
Second Vice President and Poet, P. Faison.

The following were elected Moot Court officers:

Judge, Dr. T. Ruffin.
Judge pro tem., F. D. Britton.
Solicitor, D. P. Stern.
Clerk, H. Skinner.
Sheriff, Delaney.
Coroner, B. B. Williams.

It makes a boy sick who is worrying over whether he is going to make his foot ball team, to hear his mother brag how he is trying to be No. 1 in his class.

—Press

A. N. Johnston