

filaments. Nevertheless these filaments can be determined beyond a doubt, by a sufficiently high power lens.

Under these circumstances the speaker believed that the difference between the two species is that of development only.

Note on Stemonitis maxima Sz.—MR. WINGATE remarked that he had carefully examined the type of this *Stemonitis* in the Schweintiz collection in the herbarium of the Academy, and although the specimen is very old and has not been handled with the care which is now bestowed upon these delicate forms of the Mycetozoa, the speaker was gratified to find a remnant of capillitium which contained spores enough to identify the species with one of the commonest forms found in this vicinity. This very common species will probably be found in most herbaria under the name of *Stemonitis fusca* (Roth) Rost. but on comparing it with an authentic specimen of the latter species the distinctness of the two species is very apparent. Mr. J. B. Ellis has sufficient material at present of *Stemonitis maxima* Sz. and proposes to issue it shortly in Ellis & Everhart's "North Amer. Fungi." The speaker was indebted to Mr. Geo. Massee of Kew Gardens, London, for authentic specimens of several species of *Stemonitis*, and hoped with this aid to be able to identify our American species and make the same the subject of a future communication.

DECEMBER 23.

Mr. CHAS. P. PEROT in the chair.

Thirty-one persons present.

A paper entitled "Palæosyops and Allied Genera," by C. Earle was presented for publication.

The Development of Bacillus tuberculosis.—DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON made the following summary report of his work in the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Academy with special reference to investigations on the tubercle bacillus. The communication was read at the meeting of the 18th ult., publication being deferred in consequence of the author's immediate departure for Europe:—

Our experiments show that the *Bacillus tuberculosis* is capable of changing from its commonly recognized rod form to that of a more compound one. Some of the rods assume a club shape, while further on in the cycle of life, they become branched, many organisms showing at least one distinct branch.

When these forms, including some ordinary shapes, are placed on a pabulum, rich in glycerine and poor in pepton, yet suited to their existence, the culture medium within a few weeks shows an increase of foreign matter. This includes not only a few of the complex forms but many ordinary rod bacilli. Time, however, produces an in-



1890. "Note on Stemonitis maxima Sz." *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 42, 438–438.

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