Sixteenth meeting.[1]

Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. April 18, 1906. President Flexner in the chair.

35 (127). **"On the digestion of gelatin": P. A. LEVENE and W. A. BEATTY.**

A complete separation of all aminoacids arising on hydrolysis of proteins was effected with the aid of phosphotungstic acid. On hydrolysis of gelatin by means of strong hydrochloric acid, glycocol, alanin, leucin, aspartic and glutamic acids, phenylalanin, prolin and oxyprolin, and a few substances of undefined nature, were obtained. On tryptic digestion a substance of the composition $C_7H_{10}N_2O_2$ was isolated. On further hydrolysis this substance yielded prolin and glycocol. The substance was evidently prolinglycyl anhydrid.

36 (128). **"The reactions of amphioxus to light": G. H. PARKER.**

When strong light was thrown into a basin of sea-water containing many amphioxus, the whole assembly swam about in wild confusion. This has been taken to indicate that amphioxus is very sensitive to light. But when 20 individuals were illuminated singly only 12 responded. The wild confusion in the first experiment is due quite as much to tactile stimulation as to light. When a strong, well-circumscribed beam of light was thrown on the tail of amphioxus the animal almost always reacted by a slight forward spring. When the light was thrown on the middle of the body there was usually no reaction, though sometimes a backward movement. When the light was applied to the head end, there was always a backward spring. This sensitiveness was not lost or impaired by cutting off the anterior end, including the so-called eye-spot. When cut into halves amphioxus retained sensitiveness to light in the anterior half, but not in the posterior half, though the latter was normally reactive to stimulation from very weak acid. This indicates that though amphioxus is without a brain proper, the anterior portion of its medullary tube is related to the posterior portion somewhat as the brain and cord are in the higher vertebrates. The distribution of the sensitiveness of amphioxus to light

[1] *Science*, 1906, xxiii, p. 846; *American Medicine*, 1906, i (N. S.), p. 152.