MISCELLANEOUS

We have just been informed that one of our valued Chattanooga members, Mr. Warren R. King, died last summer.

Through some mishap, the Academy's supply of volume 3, number 3 (July, 1928) JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE has become exhausted. Dr. J. T. McGill, Secretary, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, tells me that he will be glad to give credit of one dollar towards the Academy dues for a restricted number of JOURNALS of this issue. Just mail your copies direct to him.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MOLECULE?

Egg-shaped molecules so large that they may be seen with a microscope—the first time that any molecule has been seen with such apparatus—have been discovered in the X-ray laboratory of the University of Illinois.

Scientists are hailing the new find as the foundation for a really successful synthetic rubber. It is believed present-day synthetic rubber-like products have been made erroneously on the basis that rubber molecules each weighed 68,000 times as much as a hydrogen atom. The new super-giants of the molecular world weigh 500,000 times as much as hydrogen atoms; over seven times as large as science's estimate of rubber molecules. Yet the new giants are just at the limits of the microscope. They are but six one-hundred-thousandths of an inch long.

BETA-INDOLYL ACETIC ACID MAKES PLANTS GROW

Auxin, the inner secretion of plants that makes cells grow, has been produced synthetically at the California Institute of Technology, a report to the editor of *Nature,* British science weekly, states. The work was done by Drs. Kenneth V. Thimann and J. B. Koepfli, of the Institute faculty.

Drs. Thimann and Koepfli followed a "lead" provided by an earlier investigator, who has shown one of the active growth-promoting substances to be the same thing as the complex organic compound known as beta-indolyl acetic acid. They prepared this in the laboratory and tested it on properly prepared young plants. The synthetic substance worked as well as the natural, causing both cell elongation and the growth of young roots.

THE EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

The above two notes are from *The Education Focus* for March, 1935. This trade journal is published by Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., Rochester, N. Y., and contains, in every issue, materials of much interest to science teachers. For instance, the last number issued contained a very interesting article on raising Protozoa for the laboratory. It also had a very large microphotograph of Amoeda. This company will be very glad to send this journal to any science teacher free of any expense.