





THE

*K* ENTOMOLOGIST'S

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER

FOR

1856.



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TO

WILLIAM SPENCE, ESQ., F.R.S.,

AND

WILLIAM WILSON SAUNDERS, ESQ., F.R.S.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,

UNDER THE IDEA

THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR NAMES

IN CONNECTION WITH

THE FIRST WEEKLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO

ENTOMOLOGY,

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.



# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 1.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## WHY DO THE ENTOMOLOGISTS WANT A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER?

SOME who read this may say that this enquiry is one word too long, and that the "why" should be omitted; but none who have observed what is going on around them, and the increased, and still increasing, demand for immediate intelligence, will for a moment be disposed to ask, "Do the Entomologists want a Weekly Newspaper?" They do want it, as is abundantly shown even by the number of copies already subscribed for, to be forwarded by post.

But the question now chosen for discussion is, "Why do they want it?" Every year some particular insects, previously scarce, "turn up" in some degree of plenty: many of these are not confined to one special locality, but occur simultaneously in many distant parts of the country, and the Entomologist who catches any of these supposed rarities is naturally anxious to know whether he has had all the luck to himself, or whether the rarity has been scattered broad-cast throughout the country. The occurrence of *Vanessa Antiopa* and *Sphinx Convolvuli* in abundance, in particular years, sets every one on the *qui vive* to know what particular treasures are to be yielded by the year 1856:

perhaps one will be *Callimorpha Hera*; who knows?

Sometimes some lucky fellow makes a notable discovery (it is not many years since fallows, sugar, and ivy were *discovered*, Entomologically-speaking), and finds that by proceeding in some particular way of search some small species among the *Carabidæ*, hitherto almost unique, can be turned up by the score; he is in a hurry to communicate his discovery, that others may make use of it, in order to find some allied species which might probably be met with in other localities, if hunted for in the same way; THE INTELLIGENCER is just the very thing for him.

Those who discover a fact in the economy of insect-life don't like to keep their discovery to themselves till the end of the season, yet to write to each of their intimate correspondents, detailing the discovery during the height of the busy season, requires more time than they are disposed to spare; now each discoverer has but to write one full notice of his discovery and forward it to us, and in ten days, at the very outside, it is in print and in the hands of nearly every Entomologist in the kingdom.

Each Entomologist will find that he can live quicker and do more in a season, from the instantaneous intercommunication of ideas, than he could formerly do in two or three seasons.

All communications to be addressed to  
MR. H. T. STAINYON, *Mountsfield,*  
*Lewisham, near London.* No notice  
will be taken of anonymous communi-  
cations.

MR. STAINYON will be at home, as  
usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M.  
Trains by the North Kent Railway leave  
London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45,  
returning from the Lewisham Station at  
9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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SIDNEY FELIX, BRIGHTON.—Suggestion  
received will meet with due attention.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Lithocolletis Bremiella*.—On the 28th  
and 30th of September last, at the side of  
a wood near Bexley, I took a quantity of  
pupæ of this insect in the leaves of the  
Bush-Vetch (*Vicia Sepium*). Some of  
these pupæ became moths between the  
1st and 15th of October, and no more  
appearing I put the jam-pots containing  
the remaining pupæ in a cold room with  
a northern aspect. On the 24th of  
February I was surprised to see moths  
walking about on the glass covers of the  
pots, and I found that during the mild  
weather just preceding some had come  
out of the pupa state and died. From  
that time moths have continued to  
appear; during the very cold weather  
only a few, but when warmer several, and  
to-day I have taken out eight. As there  
has been no fire in the room all winter,  
the temperature has been but little above  
that of the external air, and so it is not  
improbable that the moth is only follow-  
ing its natural habit in appearing at this

early season: I see some Ichneamons  
lying dead in the pots, but if any pro-  
portionate number of the pupæ I took  
become moths I shall have enough to  
supply all to whom I have not yet sent  
this latest addition to our native *Litho-*  
*colletes*.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 6, *Kingswood*  
*Place, Lee*; March 18, 1856.

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR APRIL.

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LEPIDOPTERA.—Now is the time for  
all the Sallow-frequenting species; the  
*Taniocampa* and *Xantholeuca Croceago*  
by night, and *Adela cuprella* by day. In  
birch woods, though it is full late in the  
season now to look for them, *Ceropacha*  
*flavicornis* might perhaps still be met  
with at sugar, or a stray *Brepfos* flying  
in the sunshine.

*Biston Prodromaria* will be found on  
fences and on the trunks of oaks, gene-  
rally dispersed in woods, whereas its con-  
gener, *Biston Hirtaria*, is more frequently  
found in the gardens of the London  
squares than elsewhere,—a beneficial pro-  
vision for inculeating in the small fry  
who disport themselves in those loca-  
lities a love of insects in general and  
Lepidoptera in particular.

Of course it is unnecessary here to  
allude to *G. Rhamni* and the hyber-  
nating *Vanessæ*; but if any one alights  
upon *Antiopa* some fine morning this  
April we shall be glad to hear from him.  
One great prize now to be looked for,  
but easier to be seen than caught, is  
*Endromis versicolora*, which flies briskly  
by day in woods, more especially on  
woods near heaths: there are probably  
many thousands of these on the wing  
every April, though we so seldom hear of  
any captures: but they are not easy to  
catch; the flight is so swift and irregu-  
lar, almost worse than the flight of *La-*  
*siocampa Quercus*, and many a weary



run have we had after that insect. But where the males of *Endromis* occur there must be females, and if you can but find a female, especially a newly hatched one, there can be no great difficulty in obtaining males in tolerable plenty.

We must recommend to the attention of our Northern readers *Petasia nubeculosa*; and now that Entomologists in the North of Scotland are turning up in plenty, we hope some of them will turn up this insect: it must be sought for on the trunks of trees, especially birches, and a large grey-brown insect, nearly the size of *Xylophasia polyodon*, ought to be easily detected by those earnestly looking for it. Those who have no opportunity of looking for this insect in Scotland may try if it has not a more southern habitation, for there may be no particular reason why it should have been taken at Rannoch, unless it be that all the keenest Entomologists go to Rannoch to catch what they can, and consequently more good things are taken there than elsewhere.

The larvæ of *Arctia caja*, *villica*, and *Lasiocampa Rubi*, will of course be freely collected by those who want them.

Among the Tortricina, *Spilonota pauperana*, occurring among roses in hedges near Darenth Wood, and *Heusimene fimbriana*, which appears to frequent oaks, those on which the dried leaves still remain, may be especially alluded to; and those who do not possess *Coccyx pygmaea*, and are disposed on that account to doubt it being a British species, are advised to try if by beating the fir-trees they cannot meet with this little moth, which from the whitish colour of its hind wings must be tolerably conspicuous on the wing, in spite of its small size, as by so doing they will not only add a species to their collection, but also disembarass their minds from the prejudice about its not being British.

COLEOPTERA.—By *J. W. Douglas*.—All through the winter the Coleopterist

has had plenty to do out of doors, when the weather was not frosty, in searching moss; and even now the temperature is not sufficiently high to have tempted the hosts of beetles, large and small, that, like the forty thieves, lie still with only a slight covering on their heads, waiting till the Entomological Morgiana comes and lifts it off. Moss is the great hiding-place through the winter of the majority of the beetles, that become perfect in the autumn, that is, of those species that usually live on or near the ground—*Geodephaga*, *Pselaphidæ*, *Staphylinidæ*, *Curculionidæ*, and others; some species absolutely swarm, others are comparatively rare, or probably it would be more correct to say they are local. No one knows from the look of a place what he may not turn up, not that he is then and there to determine them, but from the most unpromising bit of ground he may find, when searching his "extract" by the fire-side, that he has been lucky enough to obtain a rarity. It was thus, some time since, I got *Amara oricalca*; and on an exposed place on Blackheath, where the moss was short and hard, three specimens of a little rarity, which one who ought to know says is *Paromalus minutus*.

Of *Curabus intricatus* "four or five individuals were taken from under the moss and lichens growing on the lower part of the trunks of trees in the woods at Bickleigh Vale, Devonshire." Why not more of this rarity? There must be others in the south-west of England, but they require to be looked for, and now is the time.

Last autumn Dr. Power found *Notiophilus rufipes* at Shirley, near Croydon, among tufts of grass at the root of trees. Ardent and successful a collector as the Doctor is, I don't believe he has exterminated the species, and it doubtless is to be met with in similar situations, both in the same and other districts: the original specimen was captured near Carlisle.

*Polystichus fasciolatus* was once captured "in profusion under a heap of stones near Southwold, Suffolk, in April, 1828," more than a quarter of a century ago, but not enough to extinguish all hope of getting it again from that locality. Can we ask any one near the place to look out?

*Drypta emarginata* seems to like the coast of the Isle of Wight, and the mainland of Hampshire; "crevices of clay banks, April," says Mr. Dawson. If search were made at night, by the aid of a lantern, it strikes me that some cabinets now without this fine insect might be supplied.—J. W. D.

HYMENOPTERA.—There are bees of spring and bees of summer; the former, in the language of the Entomologist, consist principally of *Andrenidæ*. Numbers of these bees may now be found on the catkins of willows: these will consist principally of males; their more industrious partners may be seen burying themselves in the flowers of dandelions, or laden with pollen, winging their way to some sunny bank, where they have established a colony: this may in all probability be *Andrena Clarkella*; but when the end of March is fine and mild, her first appearance is made in that month.

In order to secure specimens of the spring bees, the collector must, not in hand, hasten to the fields during this month, or fine examples of the following species can seldom be obtained:—*Andrena Clarkella*, *Guyana*, *Trimmerana*, *albicans*, *nitida*, *Aprilina*, *Afzeliella*, and lastly the beautiful *Andrena fulva*, so commonly seen in our orchards revelling in the sweet apple-blossom; she cannot be mistaken for any other species; she alone is decked in a livery entirely of a bright fulvous colour. *Andrena Aprilina* is the only species above mentioned, which is not abundant and generally distributed.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

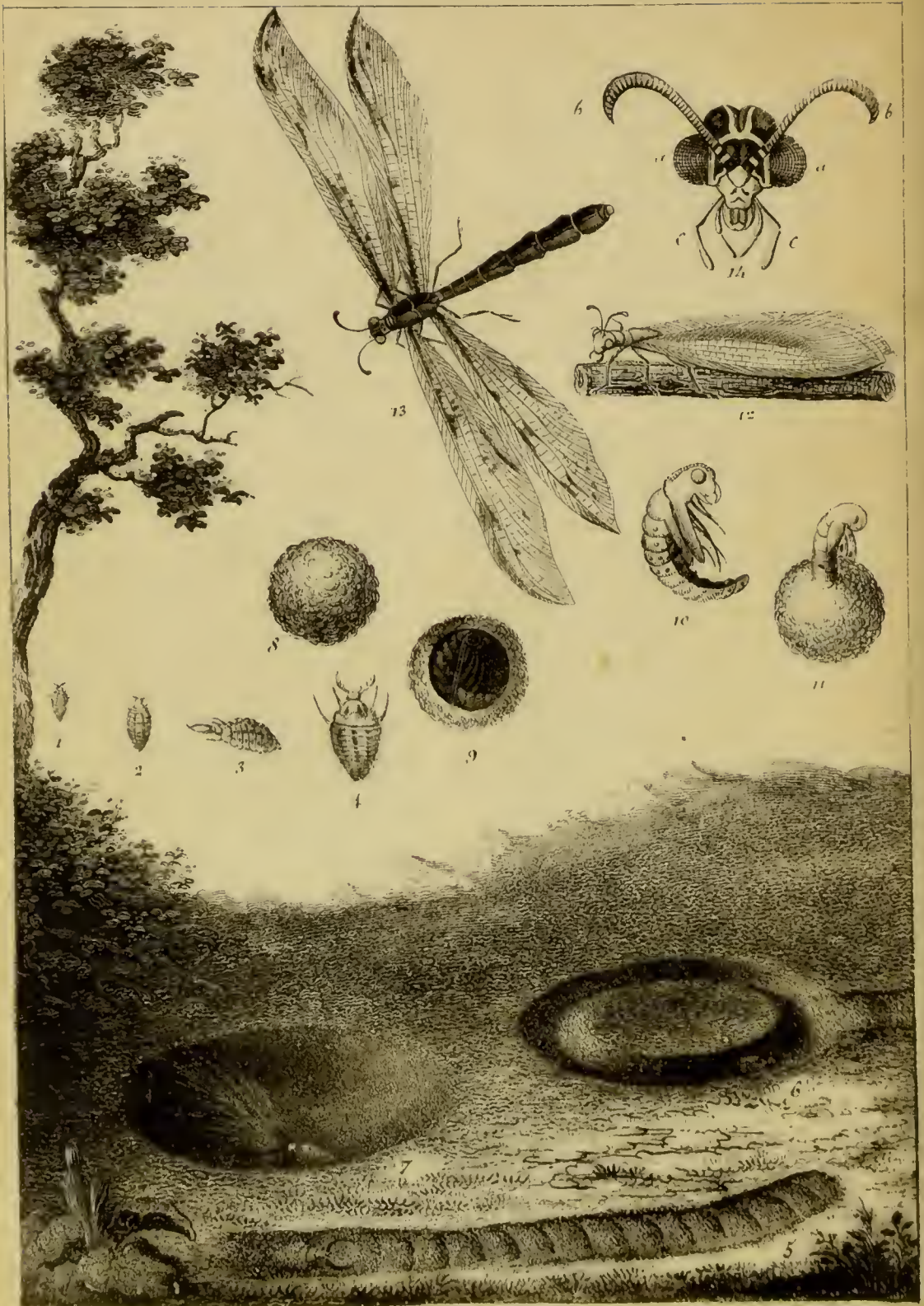
The progress of this work is delayed owing to a paucity of discoveries of the transformations of species. There are three genera to which I have cast anxious glances with a view to the production of Vol. II., viz., *Coleophora*, *Lithocolletis*, and *Elachista*, but of none of these have we a sufficient knowledge of all their states to allow of a volume being produced. As now is the prime season for the larvæ of this last-named genus, I will state the points on which we require elucidation. With the preparatory states of the following species we are entirely unacquainted:

- \*Pfeifferella (suspected to feed on Dogwood, like *Treitschkeella*),
- \*magnificella,
- \*apicipunctella,
- \*Holdenella,
- \*trapeziella,
- \*occultella,
- \*obliquella,
- \*abruptella,
- \*adseitella,
- \*Eleochariella,
- \*serrieornis,
- \*triatoricea,
- \*triseriatella,
- \*collitella,
- \*pollinariella,
- \*oehreella.

The \* prefixed indicates that any one who shall first discover and communicate to me the transformations of twenty such species, will be entitled to receive gratis a copy of the entire series of the 'Natural History of the Tineina.'

The elucidation of the transformations of the *Elachistæ* is by no means an easy matter, for the larvæ of many species present no appreciable difference, and though the mines of different species generally present some characters by which they can be separated, this is not always the case, and I should be very





*Vallée de l'Isère*

*G. de J. Girard del.*

6<sup>e</sup> Leçon 1. Larve du Fourmilion 1<sup>er</sup> âge - 2. 3. Second et troisième âge - 4. Age de la métamorphose  
 5. Route tracée dans le sable par le Fourmilion - 6. Entonnoir ou fosse commencée - 7. Entonnoir achevé.  
 Pluie de sable - 8. Cocon - 9. Nymphe renfermée dans le cocon - 10. Nymphe vue au microscope - 11. Nymphe sortant du cocon à l'époque où elle devient mouche - 12. Mouche ou Demoiselle nouvellement éclosée.  
 13. Demoiselle à l'état parfait - 14. Tête de la Demoiselle vue au microscope et de face.  
 a a. Yeux à réseau - b b. Antennes - c c. Pincès pour saisir les proies.





Fig. IV



Fig. VIII b



Fig. I

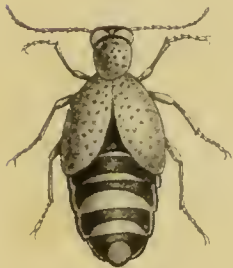


Fig. VI



Fig. VII



Fig. VIII a



Fig. V



Fig. II



Fig. IX



c



Fig. III

glad to hear wherein the larvæ and mine of *Elachista luticomella* differ from those of *Elachista atricomella*, both forming straight linear mines in the leaves of *Dactylis glomerata*.

I should be glad to receive some larvæ of *Elachista Gregsoni*, with some of the grass in which it feeds, *in flower*. I should also be glad to receive larvæ of *E. albifrontella* in *Aira cæspitosa*, of *E. Gleichenella*, and of *E. biatomella*, in their respective species of *Carex*. To those who wish to know the form and appearance of the mines of *Elachista* larvæ, I shall be most happy to forward samples on application.

I shall be very glad to receive larvæ of *Gelchia Cerealella*, if any unfortunate person has them in his possession. The larvæ of *Adela DeGeerella* and *Graecilaria Ononidis* will also be highly acceptable. The larva of *Coleophora juncicolella* should now be looked for on the shoots of heath: has any one found it?—  
H. T. STAINTON; *March* 31, 1856.

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#### MR. CURTIS'S LIBRARY AND COLLECTION.

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We learn, on good authority, that it is the intention of Mr. Curtis to dispose of his valuable Library of Entomological and other Scientific Works, and also of his fine exotic collections of *Coleoptera*, *Dermaptera*, *Dietyoptera*, *Orthoptera*, *Hemiptera*, and *Aptera*. We sincerely trust that this step has not been imposed upon Mr. Curtis by the impaired state of his eye-sight, which, as our readers well know, has been seriously affected by the severe strain to which his eyes were exposed during the completion of the Plates of the British Entomology—Plates which for accuracy and artistic talent not only place Mr. Curtis in the first rank of Entomological Artists, but actually leave him without a second.

#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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PRACTICAL HINTS RESPECTING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES; *with notices of their localities, forming a Calendar of Entomological Operations throughout the year in pursuit of Lepidoptera*. By RICHARD SHIELD. Price 3s. Van Voorst.

Here we have a very serviceable little book, containing much practical information, written by a working-man: we know how apt in the busy time of the season we all are to grasp at more than we can accomplish, and to collect larvæ, &c., *ad infinitum*, merely to starve them at home; hear then what Mr. Shield says at the conclusion of the chapter for March:—

“And I would now say a word to the tyro at the commencement of the season to avoid carelessness and inattention; it is lost labour, as far as Entomology is concerned, to go out into the woods and fields, collect a number of larvæ, bring them home, put them with their food into his breeding-cages, and leave them to chance. This will not do; they must be supplied with fresh food as often as the other gets stale; it must never be allowed to get mouldy, if it does the larvæ soon become sickly, and eventually die.”

From the chapter for April the following selection will probably induce a large number of our readers at once to procure Mr. Shield's book.

“How like our life is an April day; changeable, fickle and uncertain, composed of hopes and fears, clouds and sunshine, smiles and tears; grieving over some sorrow, bowed down by some calamity, we are, perhaps, tempted to repine; but when the misfortune presses hardest upon us, and the grief is nearest to our hearts, when all around seems dark and hopeless, the cloud rolls away, sunshine

beams upon our path, and the smile is upon our lip while the tear dims our eye; 'nil desperandum,' never despair—have faith—faith in yourself—faith in your friends.

"Humility and industry must be the allies of genius; industry, steady unflinching industry—not that kind of fining industry that tries to crowd the work of a year into the space of an hour, attempting, like Prospero's Ariel, to place a girdle round the earth in forty minutes, and finding the effort useless sinks into inanity—but a steady, persevering industry, having an object in view, and trying by all means to attain it. Now, I suppose that many of my readers are working men who have taken up the study of Entomology as a relaxation, after the severe toils of life; but shall it be relaxation only, a mere toy? Is not the study of the works of Nature, the tangible evidences of a good and great Creator, deserving of a higher position than that of a mere toy? I think so; and in order to study them aright we must bring our heart to the work, determining that whatever we accomplish we may accomplish well; and in order to do this we must do all things in their appointed time, not leaving that till tomorrow that ought to be done to-day, or doing that in the night to which the hours of the day ought to be legitimately devoted; thus neglecting our business on the successful prosecution of which our worldly comfort hangs. I will relate an anecdote in point."

But for this anecdote we must refer our readers to page 51 of the work in question, as our space will not allow us to give further extracts at present. Probably we may recur to this little book, which marks an era in Entomology, another week; for though there have been several attempts to popularize Entomology, by writing books on it suited to the working classes, this is the first instance,

to our knowledge, in which one of that class has himself turned author.

The work abounds with practical advice concerning breeding-eages, sugaring, &c., and the principal game to be expected in each month is especially noticed: excursions are made to many of our principal collecting-grounds, and the descriptions of scenery have a pleasant freshness about them, and are interspersed with many appropriate poetical quotations. We prophecy a great success for the 'Practical Hints.'

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THE WORLD OF INSECTS; a *Guide to its Wonders*. By J. W. DOUGLAS, Secretary to the Entomological Society of London. Price 3s. 6d. Van Voorst.

A most important addition to our Entomological literature, comprising a vast amount of valuable information in a compact portable form, well condensed and arranged, but yet by no means dry or tedious.

As Aquariums are now becoming so extensively used, Mr. Douglas thinks they might be employed to entomological advantage.

"Now that the Aquarium has become fashionable, I think it might be turned to account to unravel the mysteries of the early life and education of the numerous species of water-beetles, of which we know next to nothing, and to do this I believe would require less attention than the rearing of Lepidoptera.

"For an invalid here is a never-ending amusement and employment. Some kind relative or attendant could bring, day by day, the strangers who were to be made at home, and indeed to unfold their wonders and glories to admiring eyes. And if no other end were attained than to have cheated sickness, if not of its pain, at least of the attention of the patient, it would surely be worth the en-



deavour; but I hold that the continued contemplation of such wonders as would be revealed, the spectator, coming within one remove of the Power in whom we all live and move and have our being, could not but result in a conviction of the goodness, as well as the greatness of the Creator, and a consequent elevation of the whole moral nature of the student. A youth impressed with these studies may be called to go upon paths of duty far removed from all such pursuits, but in pauses by the way, during the journey of life, he will scarcely fail to revert to the happy hours he spent, and the reflections that occurred in his early years, and these thoughts may not only help to keep him steady on his path, but encourage him to go on with the hope of being able again to give his favourite studies renewed attention."

We are sorry we cannot quote further, at present, but our space warns us to desist. Our readers will do well to procure the work for themselves.

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Dr. Staudinger, of Berlin, has fully determined on his entomological campaign in Iceland, and will sail from Copenhagen at the end of the present month: he does not propose to visit England at present. Dr. Staudinger purposes in the summer of 1857, to visit Spain and Portugal.

We learn from Mr. Scott that the larva of *Elachista cinereopunctella* is common near Stockton.

Mr. Drane, we have much pleasure in stating, has met with the larvæ of *Lamprosetia Verhuellella* feeding on the *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, which grows abundantly on the ruins at Caerphilly; but he only found the larvæ on those plants

growing in a north-west or northerly aspect. Mr. Bostoek has also sent us this larva from Bideford.

Mr. William Thomas, of Park Gate, near Rotherham, has good specimens of *Thyatira derasa* captured last year, still on hand; does any one want that species?

ORNIX LOGANELLA.—Our readers will be glad to hear that this species has been bred by Mr. Wilkinson, of Scarborough, from the leaves of the Mountain-ash.

LITHOCOLLETIS IRRADIELLA.—Several specimens of this interesting species have been bred from oak leaves by Mr. Wilkinson, of Scarborough. The same gentleman is also now rearing *L. Amyotella*.

BREPPOS NOTHA.—This was unusually plentiful at West Wickham last Sunday, but very active, owing to the bright sunshine.

EPISCHNIA DIVERSALIS.—A specimen of this rare *pearl* was exhibited by Mr. S. Stevens at the March meeting of the Entomological Society. It was taken by Mr. Mytton, at Hurstperpoint, near Brighton.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—"It is with much satisfaction we learn that the appointment of Mr. Panizzi to the office of Chief Librarian and Secretary of the British Museum is likely to be accompanied with symptoms of a general reform in the establishment. The department of Natural History, including Zoology and Botany, will, we believe, be presided over by Professor Owen; and it is not

improbable that a system of oral instruction will be introduced."—*Literary Gazette*.

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*Now ready, price 3d. (or post free 4d.),  
No. 2 of*

**A** MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS. By H. T. STAINTON, Editor of 'The Entomologist's Annual.'

This work will contain descriptions of all the British species, with popular readable instructions where to find and how to know them, and will be illustrated with numerous wood-cuts. To be completed in about Thirty Monthly Numbers. The first four parts will comprise the whole of the Butterflies.

"Popularly written and well got up: within the reach of almost every one."—*Hull Advertiser*.

"The descriptions are plain and easy to be understood by the young Naturalist."—*Dover Chronicle*.

"Here the beautiful insect tribe are treated upon, without any of the dryness which usually characterizes scientific works."—*News of the World*.

"Designed for the million, and deserving of success."—*Civil Service Gazette*.

N.B.—The Third Thousand of No. 1 is now selling.

London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row, and to be had of all Booksellers and News Agents.

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*Now ready, price 3s.,*

**P**RACTICAL HINTS RESPECTING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES. By RICHARD SHIELD.

London: John Van Voorst.

*Now ready, price 3s. 6d.,*

**T**HE WORLD OF INSECTS; A GUIDE TO ITS WONDERS. By J. W. DOUGLAS, Secretary to the Entomological Society of London.

London: John Van Voorst.

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*Second Edition. Coloured Plate, 12mo.,  
pp. 153. Price 2s. 6d.*

**T**HE ENTOMOLOGIST'S ANNUAL FOR 1855.

This edition contains the following information on collecting and preserving Lepidoptera. By H. T. STAINTON.

1. How to collect Lepidoptera.
2. How to rear Lepidoptera from the pupa or larva state.
3. How to kill Lepidoptera.
4. How to pin Lepidoptera.
5. How to set Lepidoptera.
6. How to arrange Lepidoptera in the Collection.

It also contains notes on the collecting and preserving of Coleoptera. By T. VERNON WOLLASTON.

1. Suggestions where Coleoptera should be looked for.
2. The apparatus necessary for the collector of Coleoptera.
3. The mode of preparing the specimens when caught.

From it containing this information, this little volume is of great value to all beginners, and some may be incited to greater ardour in the pursuit by reading "The Address to young Entomologists at Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Rugby, and at all other Schools."

London: John Van Voorst.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 2.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## WHY DID MR. WESTWOOD GET THE ROYAL MEDAL?

WE had not thought it would have fallen to our lot to undertake the solution of this inquiry, but a blandly facetious writer having amused himself with quoting some of our sayings, emphasizing passages not emphasized by us, and then commenting on the council of the Royal Society awarding the Royal Medal to Mr. Westwood, we feel impelled by that intense Quixotism, which induces us always to rush to the succour of the oppressed, to say a few words on the subject.

The assigned cause of Mr. Westwood's receiving the Royal Medal was "for his various Monographs and Papers on Entomology;" but of course man is naturally so prone to pry into everything that is not made specially known to him, that every entomologist feels curious to know which was *the* work of so voluminous a writer which procured the much-coveted distinction. This curiosity is very easily gratified: the greater number of works to which Mr. Westwood's name is prefixed have not originated with him, but have been got up by booksellers, who, looking about in search of an author to *do* the Entomological letter-press, have fallen in with Mr. Westwood. Such works are no criterions of an author's powers; they are of the nature of task-work, in which, the remuneration being but scanty, the object is naturally to devote no more time and trouble to the subject than is absolutely necessary. In most cases, if Mr. Westwood had not done these works, the booksellers would probably still have

got them done by somebody less competent, so that the party who has really most right to complain as the aggrieved party is not the book-buying public, but Mr. Westwood himself, who rather loses reputation by such books.

It is now some eighteen years ago since Mr. Westwood brought out the first number of his "INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN CLASSIFICATION OF INSECTS," and this work is universally admitted to be the best work of his pen. It supplies a something which few entomologists who have felt the value of it would like to be without, and as embracing a bird's-eye view of the varied forms of insects throughout the globe, with considerable notices of their habits, in two volumes octavo, it is a wonderful work, a real Entomological "*multum in parvo.*" We have been a little behind the scenes, and, from information that has reached us, we have no hesitation in announcing that it was mainly for this work that Mr. Westwood obtained the Royal Medal; need we add, that in our opinion the excellence of that work fully deserved this reward.

It may be naturally asked, "why, if this were the cause, was not the Medal awarded long ago?" For the award *now* of the Royal Society has led an eminent German Entomologist to remark, that by giving the Royal Medal to Mr. Westwood the honour had been conferred on the Society, implying that it showed not so much the merits of Mr. Westwood as that the Royal Society had awoke to the appreciation of them. There may be some truth in this rejoinder; but one reason may be assigned for the Royal Society's aeter perceptions. Entomo-

logy is more prominent than formerly: when such works as Wollaston's 'Insecta Maderensia,' Dawson's 'Geodephaga Britannica,' and Smith's 'Monograph of British Bees,' issue rapidly from the press like a torrent of lava, it is time to recognise the existence of the volcano that emits them.

Mr. Westwood has himself stated that he views the award of the medal not so much as a recognition of his own individual services, but of the increasing *status* and position of Entomology: we do not feel confident that had his rivals been favoured with a medal they would have had the magnanimity to have made a similar statement.

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All communications to be addressed to  
MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield,  
Lewisham, near London. No notice  
will be taken of anonymous communi-  
cations.

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MR. STAINTON will NOT be at home on Wednesday next, nor on Wednesday the 23rd: he hopes to be at home on Wednesday the 30th.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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G. M. S. enquires which is the best way of treating the larvæ of *Gelechia tricolorella* in order to breed the perfect insect. We find a very simple method is to place the food in damp sand in a flower-pot and cover the flower-pot over with gauze; if the sand is kept moist, and the flower-pot is kept out of the sun, the food will only require changing once a week.

SNOWBALL writes us that Blackstone lays it down that "riots must have three persons at least to constitute them:" we will not dispute it, never having met with

any of the learned commentator's Entomological writings; but we imagine three persons a sufficient nucleus at least to constitute a Society; if, therefore, our Entomological brethren in any locality will congregate, agree, and resolve themselves into an Association, and hold fixed periodical meetings, our columns will be open to report their *lawful* proceedings, riotous, by-the-bye, they are more likely to be in a numerous assembly; other journals will also, no doubt, be found to chronicle their doings, which may lead to "the discovery of some unknown neighbouring entomologists, as also corresponding members." Try it, Snowball, "*vires acquirit eundo.*"

W. G. MACDUFF.—Your wishes are complimentary, but the labour involved in each number of the 'Manual' is immense; it would be impossible to do it fortnightly.

A. N., BRISTOL.—It is *impossible* to publish the 'Intelligencer' earlier, so as to be posted on Saturday morning. Where the names of the captors are not given, they do not wish to be applied to for the specimens, all of which they probably want for their own collections. The insect probably abounds near you.

E. H., WORCESTER.—Those butterflies which have not any English names given them in the 'Manual' *have no English names by which they are generally known.*

T. B.—Is it the Dartford Heath *Nep.* allied to *Floslactella*?

J. G., BRANDESTON.—In our next.

INSECTA BRITANNICA, Vol. 4.—This volume is just published; it is on the Diptera, by Mr. Walker, forming the third volume on that order.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Aepys marinus.*—The last week of February, at Strangford, I found *Aepys*

*marinus* and larva, *Cillenus lateralis*, *Micralymma marina* and larva, all abroad in their usual haunts on the shore there. The weather previously had been very keen, and I had not expected to find them. However, other *Curabidae* and *Staphylinidae* under stones, farther inland, were stirring freely.—A. H. HALLDAY, 23, *Harcourt Street, Dublin*; April 2, 1856.

*An hour on the 4th of April.*—Yesterday having an hour to spare I turned out with four of my children for a beetle-hunt. Like dogs, children have a varying capacity for sport, for in this light only do children regard insect-hunting; but once put them on the scent, and they run down their game in gallant style: I have often had the advantage of their visual and manual assistance, though they sometimes do too much, and put their feet into it, whatever it may be. But it really is an advantage to have children with you, their eyes being near the ground, see everything, which is not the case with eyes that are further off, and have been often disappointed and deceived. Before long we came to a young elm, about 15 inches in diameter, which had been killed by *Scolytus destructor*, and having been cut down was lying at the side of the road: we began to strip the victim, and at first saw only the burrows of the *Scolyti*, but then turned up a *Hypophæus bicolor* in one of the burrows, and before we left we had bottled ten of his brethren: this beetle I had not seen alive for sixteen years, my own fault probably, but I was greatly pleased to renew the acquaintance. Little did I think when I mentioned the name in my communication respecting Coleoptera to be now looked for [this portion of Mr. Douglas's hints will appear in our next number], that I should so soon have had an opportunity of following my own advice. Then we started off in full cry for the ponds in the third field from Morden College, which

we "fished" assiduously for half an hour, and were rewarded with nine *Colymbetes pulverosus*, and one *C. bipunctatus*, but not of any other species, not even *C. bipustulatus* or *uliginosus*, accounted the two commonest species, a proof of what Mr. Newman has remarked, that they are not common everywhere. I shall be glad to take and send *C. pulverosus*, which is said to be more general near London than in the North, to any one who may want it. We got also a lot of *Hydropori*, *Noterus*, &c., too common to mention, besides frogs, efts, &c., for the juvenile aquarium.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 6, *Kingswood Place, Lee, near London*; April 5, 1856.

*Dasyampa Rubiginea.*—I have taken one specimen of this pretty species myself, and seen three others taken by a collector who is staying here, therefore those in whose localities it occurs would do well to look for it now: I took mine in a gas street-lamp, but sallow is, I think, the best place to try for it.—J. J. READING, 42, *Gibbons Street, Plymouth*; April 8, 1856.

*Alueis pictaria.*—On the 6th instant I took this species on the Dartford Heath Fence, where I at the same time found *Gracilaria elongella* and *stigmatella*. March 21st to 23rd, I was at Darent Wood and took upwards of thirty species of Lepidoptera, and among them were *Noctua leucographa*, *Taniocampa rubricosa*, *gracilis*, *Xantholeuca croceago*, *Brephos Parthenius* and *Notha*, *Theristis Caudella* and *Semioscopis Avellanella*: the larva of *Coleophora albitarsella* seems to be common this spring, they are in great plenty in Darent Wood, sometimes three on one leaf of the ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).—H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch*; April 8, 1856.

*Xylina rhizolitha.*—Two specimens have been taken here this spring.—ARTHUR NAISH, *Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill, near Bristol*; April 8, 1856.

*Noctua leucographa*.—We have taken three males of this species, and a pair of *Munda* at sallows since Friday last.—BERNARD SMITH, *Marlow*; April 8, 1856.

*Elachista* and *Aira caspitosa*.—I believe that *Zonariella* will be found wherever this grass is abundant. It requires some little patience to find this larva, but once found, you can go on picking first one blade and then another, until you quite wonder where they keep coming from: I believe it is the larva of *Zonariella* which I now find so abundant. I say believe, because neither Mr. Stainton nor I have as yet succeeded in rearing the spring brood, nor am I aware of any one else having done so. The larva eats the whole breadth of the leaf, and is generally found at the tip: when full-grown it is large and stout, of a dirty green colour, with the head, and a spot on the anal segment brown; on the corselet is a very pretty brown character, not unlike the outline of the capital of a Corinthian column: I find also the same larva in one of the smooth-leaved grasses, but not nearly so plentiful. In *Aira caspitosa* also I have at present *cinereopunctella*, either *atricomella* or *luticomella*, or both, and also what I believe is *Meyerella*: without doubt I have this last in *Brachypodium sylvaticum*.—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees*; April 7, 1856.

[We are rather incredulous as to *Cinereopunctella* feeding on *Aira caspitosa*, and should like to see the pretty red-spotted larva in that grass: *albifrontella* we know frequents *A. caspitosa*, but we are not aware that either *E. atricomella* or *luticomella* feeds on it.]

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR APRIL.

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LEPIDOPTERA.—The ensuing week is that in which the first white butterflies

are generally noticed in the south of England. In the early season of 1840 we took *Anthocharis Cardamines* before the 15th of April.

*Xylocampa lithorhiza* is found now, not uncommonly on palings; but there are rarer insects to be looked for, such for instance as *Alucis pictaria* and *Lophopteryx Carmelita*: the last-named insect has been getting gradually commoner for several seasons; perhaps this spring it may be more plentiful than ever, so keep a sharp look-out on the trunks of birches, and on palings in their vicinity.

*Ennomos illustraria* is also to be expected about this time, and is a likely insect to be attracted to light.

But now should those who purpose breeding *Noctuae* bestir themselves and look out for the larvæ of *Polia tineta*, *Noctua ditrapezinum*, and other commoner species.

*Triphæna fimbria* is no rarity now; but many who read these lines may not possess it. By searching young birch shrubs at night with a lantern, some of these omnivorous *Noctua* larvæ will be found to have left their diurnal *séjour* among the withered leaves on the ground, and to have crawled up the stems, and to be busily engaged on the fresh, juicy, half-expanded leaves of the young birches. Some who go in search of these larvæ may visit the same localities by day; now on a bright sunny afternoon a clump of young birches ought certainly to produce some specimens of the genus *Micropteryx*. Queer things those *Micropteryces* are! Who would ever think they were moths? Some doubt yet whether they are moths: but several species are about, and some of them, such as *Sparmannella* and *Salopiella* are in considerable request: they may be taken by beating birches, holding your net beneath the branches on which you inflict the thrashing, or they may be obtained by sweeping the branches.

The early *Lithocolletes* and *Elachista* now begin to appear on the wing, and *Perittia obscurepunctella* may be found flying rather briskly on sunny afternoons in the neighbourhood of honey-suckle.

COLEOPTERA.—By *J. W. Douglas*.—Stones on chalk hills now begin to be in request by the local *Geodephaga*. Already *Tarus axillaris* has been taken at Box Hill, and *Licininus depressus*, *L. Silphoides*, and other desired *Geodephaga* will soon follow.

*Pæcilus lepidus* used to occur in the sand-pit at Charlton, but I searched for it last spring many a time and oft without seeing one. It seems to be extinct there, and it is to be hoped that some one will turn it up in another locality.

*Panagæus quadripustulatus* has been taken at Deal, in April, in company with other good things. Some Kentish Man or Man of Kent (there is a difference though I don't know what) may think it worth his while to pay the locality a visit this month.

Water-beetles are yet hardly aroused from their winter's sleep; but I see lots in the shops of the furnishers of Aquariums, which much have been very rudely and prematurely awakened, and in their confined glass dwellings now look very much as if they would like "to slumber again." But when the sun shines you may see in the ponds some *Helophori*, that have just ascended from their mud-bath, still bearing earthy matter on their bodies; now and then a *Hydroporus* is visible, and *Acilius sulcatus* shows himself as he comes up to breathe. But "there is more than meets the eye" in the waters in April; an energetic aquarian would turn up *Agabus striolatus*, *Hydroporus oblongus*, for the Rev. Hamlet Clark says these species, "and probably others, are to be taken freely only in the months of February and March;" let us hope April is not too late.—*J. W. D.*

HYMENOPTERA.—The bees of the

genus *Andrena* are attacked by a parasite of the Coleopterous genus, *Stylops*; but as many entomologists have never seen this remarkable creature alive, we call attention to the fact of this being the month when the best chance of obtaining the parasite presents itself; every bee which is captured should be carefully examined, more particularly the females: if the parasite infests the specimen, the latter will have its abdomen more or less distorted; a small object will be observed protruding between the segments of the abdomen: if it be of a pale brown colour, somewhat flattened, and much resembling the young bud on many shrubs before the leaves burst forth, it is a female, and will never quit the body of the bee; but should it be of a black colour, and shaped like the pointed end of a Lepidopterous pupa, it is a male: the bee should be immediately placed in a box covered with fine gauze, and well supplied with fresh flowers, placed in the sun, and in all probability the first morning's sunshine will produce a male *Stylops*.

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#### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Monday, April 7, 1856. *W. W. SAUNDERS*, Esq., President, in the Chair.

FIVE POUND PRIZE ESSAY FOR 1857.—The President announced that the subject selected for the Prize Essay for the ensuing year was 'A history of the habits, transformations, &c., of *Gelechia terrella*, with a view to ascertain whether this common insect is injurious to agriculture.' The Essays to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Entomological Society, on or before June 1, 1857, and for the best Essay the above reward of Five Pounds would be given.

ENNOMOS ALNIARIA.—*Mr. A. F.*

Sheppard exhibited a specimen of this rare British *Geometra*, taken on a post by the sea-side near Margate, by Mr. W. Aldridge, on the 27th of September last.

SYNEMONS FROM AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Newman sent for exhibition some specimens of *Synemon*, which, from the observations of one or two collectors brought to his notice, he was disposed to consider were allied to the *Hesperide* (Skippers).

COLEOPTERA WITH DILATED HEADS.—Mr. Westwood exhibited two small species of beetles, with singularly flattened and broad heads: one of these was an insect of uncertain location, which had been received by Herr Dohrn from Columbo, in Ceylon, and for which that entomologist had proposed the name *Enotiophorus Westwoodii*. Mr. Westwood, however, suggested the more characteristic name of *E. vestitus* for this species, which was much clothed with pubescence. The other species belonged to the family of the *Erotylide*, and was a native of Guinea. Mr. Westwood proposed to call it *Triplacodes Guineensis*.

A DOMESTIC PEST.—Mr. Westwood exhibited some small *Acari*, which had been sent him by Dr. Lee, who had received them from Miss Pitman, of Lyme Regis, whose house had recently been infested with them to such a degree that it seemed hardly possible to extirpate them, till she tried burning a quantity of sulphur and nitre in her rooms: this eventually had the desired effect of ridding her of her pest, but also injured all her drawings, all her books with coloured plates, all the polish of the furniture, and the enamel on her shells.

the marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), cannot have failed to notice a little spider. On my recent pilgrimage to the shrine of *Coleophora conspicuella* I collected a few of these spiders, and sent them to Mr. Meade for determination; he pronounces them to be *Ergates benigna*, Blackwall (*Theridion benignum*, Walkenaer). Mr. Meade remarks, "these are all immature specimens in different stages of growth; these spiders construct a nest in the summer at the end of twigs of heath or juniper, or (as you find) *Origanum*, and there the young are bred, and seem to remain all the winter."—H. T. STANTON; *April 5, 1856*.

MINING LARVÆ IN FIR-LEAVES.—In the leaves of the Scotch fir (*Pinus sylvestris*), Mr. Wilkinson, of Searborough, sent me a mining larva. The habit of this larva was to mine from the top of the leaf downwards, the mined place being left full of excrement: thus, before the larva was the undevoured green pulp of the leaf, behind it a mass of greenish excrement. Shortly after this larva had been found, "and made a note of," I noticed in my garden some mined fir-leaves, and on closely examining them found that my fir-miners were something different. They had evidently learnt that a heap of excrement was a nuisance, so each larva had a small outlet to its mine, through which the excrement was ejected, and the inside of the mine was kept perfectly clean and tidy. Herr Schmid, of Frankfort-on-the-Maine, wrote me that they had found two new larvæ in fir-leaves this spring, and sent me the two kinds above-mentioned: also Herr Grabow, of Berlin, writes me he has discovered a larva mining the leaves of the fir, so that it would appear that the time for the discovery of these larvæ had arrived. What these larvæ will produce yet remains to

THE SMALL SPIDER OF THE ORIGANUM.—Those who have visited the Hilly Field in autumn and spring, and have been sweeping or gathering the heads of



be seen.—H. T. STANTON; *April 2*, 1856.

NOMENCLATURE OF BRITISH COLEOPTERA, Part I.—Comprising the Geodephaga, Hydradephaga, and part of the Philhydrida, by J. F. DAWSON, L.L.B. and HAMLET CLARK, M.A., is now out, and may be had, post free, for Twelve Stamps, on application to the Rev. H. CLARK, All Saints, Northampton.

NEW ADELA LARVA.—We lately received from Herr Schmid a larva probably referable to this genus, of which the case was composed of several pieces, successively added, not of one entire piece as in the case of *Adela DeGeerella*: these larvæ were found beneath a sloe-bush, and in captivity we feed them with chickweed; perhaps they may produce *Sulzella*.

DASYCAMPA RUBIGINEA.—Two specimens of this insect have been taken among shallows, near Exeter, this spring.

MONOGRAPH OF THE PLUMES.—We are happy to announce that Dr. Jordan, of 40, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is working at this group; he will be happy to receive larvæ of any of the species for the purpose of describing them.

A suggestion has been made to us, that a list of *all the European* entomologists should be prepared, specifying which group each individual specially attended to. As this could only be ascertained by writing to each individual, and as a large number of foreign entomologists would be unwilling to incur the expense of postage, the postage both

ways would fall upon the compiler of the Catalogue; and supposing the European entomologists to number 600, and the double postage to average a shilling, which is certainly a low estimate, the expense, in postage alone, would be £30; but, as a large number of the parties applied to would probably not be at the trouble even of sending an answer to the circular, it would be subsequently necessary to make a tour throughout Europe, calling on each of the non-replying individuals. Will any one undertake to prepare such a list? It would be very useful!

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*Now ready, price 3d. (or post free 4d.),*  
No. 2 of

A MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS. By H. T. STANTON, Editor of 'The Entomologist's Annual.'

This work will contain descriptions of all the British species, with popular readable instructions where to find and how to know them, and will be illustrated with numerous wood-cuts. To be completed in about Thirty Monthly Numbers.

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**P**RACTICAL HINTS RESPECT-  
ING MOTHS AND BUTTER-  
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“Of natural history, that branch which relates to insects or entomology is the most popular in this country, or the most likely to become popular. It can be followed in hours of leisure, without interruption to the great business of life, and the number, beauty, and accessibility of its objects, give it peculiar advantages over other sections of the same science. But while the taste for Entomology is inherent in the popular constitution, and the means for studying it are numerous and easily attainable in these islands, the elementary instruction necessary for an intelligent and systematic prosecution of it has been hitherto sadly deficient: thanks to the efforts made, and making, by Mr. Stainton, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Shield, Mr. Dallas, and other gentlemen, the knowledge of the first principles of Entomology is being diffused throughout the United Kingdom, and multitudes are longing to learn the wonders of the insect world, and to enjoy the pleasures of chasing, collecting, and arranging the various specimens, a knowledge and an enjoyment confined up to the present time to comparatively few persons.

“The work now offered to the public by Mr. Douglas may be truly described as the *vade mecum* of the student. It

does not profess to give full particulars of the ten thousand species of insects in Great Britain, but it does point out some of the more prominent and interesting characteristics of insect-life, and indicates the best localities for seeking, and the easiest methods for securing specimens, and lays down general rules for classifying them. The insects that inhabit the garden, the orchard, the fields, the heaths, the downs, the woods, the waters, the sea-shore, and the mountains, are successively described, and their habits and marvellous uses are explained briefly but clearly. With his ring-net in hand, his little boxes, and a few pins in his pocket, the happy dweller in the country, or the adventurer who escapes from the toil of a town, may sally forth, after attentively perusing this volume, in quest of recreation and knowledge, certain to return from his expedition both a wiser and a stronger man.

“The title of Mr. Shield’s publication sufficiently denotes its scope and object, and we need only remark that his ‘Practical Hints’ are literally what they purport to be. Beginning with January, and going through the months of the year, he instructs his pupils how to breed, collect, and arrange their insects, observe their development and growth, and study their habits and peculiarities. The in-door and out-door entomological operations peculiar to each month are fully set forth, and the learner is taught all that is requisite for a neophyte to prosecute with pleasure and profit this delightful branch of Natural History.”—*Civil Service Gazette*.

London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 3.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## AGRICULTURE AND ENTOMOLOGY.— THE WHEAT CROP.

CONSIDERABLE alarm has been excited with respect to the safety of the growing wheat-crop: from various quarters we hear reports that it is attacked by some mysterious insect foe. Unfortunately for agriculture the new enemy belongs to that order of insects called *Diptera*, and the number of entomologists who attend to and study that order is not numerous: hence the *Diptera* are very little known; their transformations, their habits, &c., are all matters yet to be investigated: had the insect which is attacking the wheat been *Lepidopterous* or *Coleopterous*, some twenty persons would probably have been ready at once to come forward and pronounce what the species was, what its habits were, and how its increase was to be checked: but still, unless some of these entomologists had themselves been practical agriculturists, it is highly probable that the remedies they would have recommended would not have been cordially followed out by the farmer.

An agriculturist, knowing nothing of Entomology, thinks that if he is annoyed by some new "vermin" he has only to apply to some Professor of Entomology to be at once told the best way to get rid of his foe: but this is not the mode to go work; those enterprising agriculturists

who know how much the safety of their crops depends upon the absence of the ravages of the insect hosts, and who know that 'Knowledge is Power,' will set *themselves* to work to obtain a practical knowledge of Entomology, in order that, when they find their wheat or any other crop affected, they may themselves be able to discover the cause of the injury, and apply the proper remedy. The entomological agriculturist who himself lives on the spot, and sees the smitten crops day after day, will be far better able to cure the disease (if the disease be a curable one) than the cleverest agriculturist knowing nothing of Entomology would be capable of doing, even after consulting the cleverest entomologist who knows nothing of agriculture.

It is a most necessary part of the education of the agriculturist that he should be well acquainted with Entomology, and know his friends from his foes. Some assume that all insects are hostile, and are to be indiscriminately destroyed, about as sane a proceeding as though an *ignoramus* were to pluck up his crop as soon as it appeared above ground, under the impression that what was then making its appearance was only *weeds*. We can hardly imagine that any one could possibly be so ignorant as this; but is the ignorance of those who destroy their insect friends one iota greater? This subject is one of great importance,

and one in which all consumers of agricultural produce are interested, so that we shall probably recur to it on another occasion.

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*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STAINTON will NOT be at home on Wednesday next: he hopes to be at home on Wednesday the 30th inst., as usual.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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J. H.—The larvæ in birch catkins are those of *Anchylopera Mitterbacheriana*.

A NOVICE is recommended to come to the meetings of the Entomological Society. The water-beetles are very fond of young fish, now and then, just to vary their diet.

W. B. G.—The insects mentioned are too common to interest our readers.

R. H. F.—Insects are best killed by bruised laurel-leaves, as recommended in the 'Entomologist's Annual,' 1855, second edition, p. 22. We cannot reprint the whole of the instructions there given in the 'Intelligencer.' *Polia herbida* will always fade.

J. H. R.—A net of book-muslin attached to a hoop of cane is the best for taking Lepidoptera: it may be procured of Downie, of Barnet, or Foxcroft, Union Yard, Oxford Street, London; but J. H. R. may make one himself for a trifle if he follow the directions on this matter in the 'Entomologist's Companion:' our space does not admit of reprinting them.

E. A.—Your suggestion will be considered, and an answer given in a future number.

J. L. C.—When a moth emerges from the pupa it is natural for it to remain quiet until its wings are fully developed and the membranes hardened: during this period, which seldom exceeds an hour or two, it should not be molested, for if disturbed, even slightly, the development of the wings will probably be arrested, and the specimen become a "cripple."

J. B., WHITBY.—Larvæ received with thanks: will report hereafter concerning them. The larva of *Arctia villica* feeds on plaintain and other common plants: the larva of *Lasiocampa Rubi* on clover and other pasture plants in the autumn, then it hibernates, but does not feed when it comes out in the spring. The pupa-cases of *Cerura vinula* should be looked for on willows now, it is *C. bifida*, that spins up on the bark of poplars: it is quite late enough to seek the cocoons. What is the size of the nettle-feeder?

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Chrysophanus Dispar* in Staffordshire.—Seeing in your 'Mannual,' it is stated at page 11, that the Large Copper is only to be obtained in the fens, I beg to say, that a few days ago a gentleman brought to show me a male and female of that species, which he had captured last year in Staffordshire: this is a new locality to me, and I suppose is so to most entomologists: I quite expect this insect will be diligently looked after this season in this new locality.—RICHARD WEAVER, 25, Pershore Street, Birmingham; April 9, 1856.

*Pupa of Aegeria Apiformis*.—When pupa-digging the other day, at the roots of a poplar, I observed (as it appeared to me) a small knot in the wood. Having,

according to custom, given it a gentle tap, I was surprised to find it break off, being the top of a cocoon formed of wood, and containing a large maggot, as I at first thought: as such I was about leaving it, when it suddenly struck me it was the larva and pupa case of *Ægeria Apiformis* or *Bembeciformis*. After much scooping (for it was buried in the wood) I succeeded in extricating it, and found my suspicion correct. The "modus operandi" being now known, I succeeded, after two days' hard labour and laborious search, in finding twenty: they were local, preferring poplars near the edge of a stream, probably because the wood was rendered soft by the dampness of the situation. The way I detected them was as follows: I carefully examined the trunk close to the ground, and if I saw a small round hole (about the size of the tip of my little finger) I was pretty sure of my prey. I then removed the earth to the depth of a couple of inches or so and scooped out the wood round the hole, and was almost always rewarded by finding a case: the utmost care is necessary in this operation, as the case is soft and easily torn: it is also *very hard* work, and requires much patience. I thought this hint might be useful to those who are in want of the insect.—JOSEPH GREENE, *Brandeston, Woodbridge, Suffolk*; April 8, 1856.

*Adela euprella*.—On the 13th inst. I took seven specimens of this pretty moth on Wimbledon Common, flying round the sallows in the sunshine; my friend Mr. H. Tompkins, who was with me, did even better, having managed to box ten. Mine were *all* males, so I imagine the female is not yet out.—JOHN HUNTER, 24, *Bloomsbury Street*; April 14, 1856.

*Micropteryx unimaculella*, &c.—On Thursday I went to look after *Micropteryx*, but found very few of the birches sprouting: a few *unimaculella* and about thirty *semipurpurella* were all I saw, but

*Salopiella* is always later in its appearance. I am now taking larvæ of *Coleophora albitarsella* and *lineola*.—G. M. SALT, *Shrewsbury*; April 12, 1856.

*Xylina rhizolitha*.—I took two specimens at sallows in March, and a collector staying in this neighbourhood took nineteen specimens.—W. S. M. D'URBAN, *Newport, near Exeter*; April 13, 1856.

*Noctua* at Newark.—The following have occurred here at sallows during the past week:—*Taniocampa grævilis*, *munda* and *rubricosa* sparingly, and *Trachea piniperda* freely; also *Calocampa exoleta* and its rarer congener *vetusta*.—G. GASCOYNE, *Newark, Notts.*; April 12, 1856.

*Brephos Notha wanted*.—Seeing by the 'Intelligencer' that *Brephos Notha* is common at West Wickham, will any kind friend have the kindness to procure a few specimens of it for me, as neither *Notha* nor *Parthenias* are to be taken in this neighbourhood? The only rarity I have met with is two specimens of *Dasy-campa rubiginea* at sallows. What can *Depressaria Alstræmeriana* be doing on the buds of *Prunus spinosa*? can they be depositing their eggs? The females appear to direct themselves to these bushes, and to nothing else.—E. PARFITT, 4, *Weirfield Place, St. Leonard's, Exeter*; April 12, 1856.

[*D. Alstræmeriana* is known to feed on *Coumum maculatum* (Hemlock): why it should congregate on the sloe bushes we know not.]

*Callistus lunatus*.—Two specimens of this insect, which is certainly one of the most beautiful of the British *Geodephaga*, were taken by me on the 5th inst. on Buckland Hill, near Reigate, under a stone, and close to the spot where so many have been found within the last year or two. This famous spot, however, has now been ploughed over.—HENRY ADAMS, 19, *Hanover Villas, Notting Hill*; April 15, 1856.

*Bombus soroensis*.—I caught a female of this insect on the 5th, at Hampstead. I showed it to Mr. Smith, who says that it is a very rare insect, and that he has only once met with it in the whole of his long career.—GEORGE EDWARDS, 21, Wellington Terrace, St. John's Wood; April 14, 1856.

*Cloantha conspicillaris*.—I have this morning bred a specimen of this insect from pupæ collected near here; this is the eighth specimen I have bred from pupæ found in Worcestershire. — E. SMITH, Turkey Street, Worcester; April 14, 1856.

*Noctuidæ flying in the day-time*.—Yesterday, at Hainault Forest, at two o'clock in the day, and when the sun was shining brightly, I saw three Noctuidæ flying round a willow-bush in full bloom, and presently they alighted on the flowers and fed. I was not mistaken in repeat of their being Noctuidæ, because I caught one of them, and it was *Teniocampa cruda*. That these night-fliers should be active in the mid-day sun is new to me. I should like to know if any one has observed a similar occurrence. — J. W. DOUGLAS, Lee; April 14, 1856.

*Lithocolletis Vacciniella*. — I would recommend to all those parties who have collectors in the north, to get a sack-full or two of the leaves of *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa* sent to them; mail-gigs and railways render this an easy task. The time is fast drawing on for the insect making its appearance, and as the larvæ are much infested with Ichneumons, the greater the stock the more the chances of rearing a series of this little gem for each subscriber.—JOHN SCOTT, South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees; April 14, 1856.

*The Bear-berry, (Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi)*.—While at Peckabers in 1854, I found a small larva mining the leaves of this plant; none were reared: and as I heard of no one having met with it last

year, probably for want of looking for, a reminder now will not be amiss. The plant is very common on many of the mountains, and the end of this month is the time to look for the larva.—JOHN SCOTT, South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees; April 14, 1856.

*Coleophora aelyonipennella*.—Few persons take this insect in the perfect state, and as I imagine it has yet to find its way into most collections, now is the time to look for the larva: it makes blotches on the leaves, sometimes as many as ten on a leaf of *Centaurea nigra* (black knapweed): these are very pale at first, but become browner as they grow old. The larva is generally attached to the under side. I have never found beyond three on a plant, and most generally only one. The larva is of a pale yellow colour, and the three first segments which it protrudes from its case are the only ones which have any markings. The segment next the head (which last, by the way, is brown) has a large, somewhat lobed, brown patch, darkest posteriorly. The next segment has four brown spots, forming a crescent: the central two of these are triangular. The third segment has but two, also brown spots, placed one on each side of the back. In addition to these, each of the three segments has also a deep brown spot placed just above the legs, and the legs themselves have three broad brown bands. The case is nearly straight, blackish, and with two pale longitudinal lines on the under side. It is not uncommon here.—JOHN SCOTT, South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees; April 7, 1856.

*Mining Larva in Fir-Leaves*.—Having seen in the 'Intelligencer' of the 12th inst. the account of the finding of two fir-leaf mining larvæ, I was induced to try my luck at hunting the fir trees, and was soon rewarded by finding both the species, one of them in *Pinus sylvestris*, the other in *P. pinaster*. The latter must be the one found in your garden, as your

description of the mine agrees exactly with that I have before me. The habit of the larva is decidedly different from the one in Scotch fir, for this begins its mine by boring a hole about the centre of the leaf on one side, choosing almost always the concave, or inside of the leaf; it then, from this hole, begins to work upwards on one side, leaving a sort of midrib; when it has worked up as far as it thinks proper it returns to the mine and begins a new one on the other side of the midrib, and sometimes works downwards from the hole towards the base of the leaf, so that the hole is about the centre of the mine; but, as you remark, they are very clean in their work, for you can scarcely find any excrement. The larva in Scotch fir is very different in its habits: beginning at the apex of the leaf it eats away all the parenchyma, and does not make parallel mines as the other kind does: it is a similar larva, but much smaller.—EDWARD PARFITT, 4, *Weirfield Place, St. Leonard's, Exeter*; April 15, 1856.

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR APRIL.

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LEPIDOPTERA.—The rapidly advancing season daily brings out additional species, and before the close of the ensuing week, unless the skyey influences prove extremely unfavourable, *Pieris Brassicæ* and *Napi* will be abroad. In forward seasons, where holly abounds, *Polyommatus Argiolus* has been known to occur the third week in April. Those who have pupæ of the Emperor Moth (*Saturnia Carpini*) must now examine their cages, as the perfect insect will now be making its escape from its long imprisonment.

*Gastropacha Ilieifolia* should now be looked for at Cannock Chase, its best known habitat, but it is probably "at home," as the Germans say, on various

other of our Northern Moors. It was on the 27th of April that a specimen was captured at Cannock Chase last year. In the South of England the Humming Bird Sphinx (*Macroglossa Stellatarum*) now reappears after hibernation, and may be seen disporting himself in gardens on sunny afternoons. Hibernated specimens of the rarer *Sphingina* will also occasionally be met with by the "lucky" ones. *Ceropacha ridens* is one of the rarer Noctuæ now to be obtained; it may be allured by sugar or attracted by light.

COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—Rotten wood is just now in right order to search, not too wet, not too dry. And what a rich treat it is to dig into a tree whose wood is in all the stages of decay between sound timber and fungus! Larvæ or perfect insects await the tapping of the Coleopterist; *Dorcus*, *Elaters*, including *Ludius ferrugineus*; *Sinodendron cylindricum*, &c., in ash; *Bolitophagus agaricola*, *Hypophlæus bicolor*, *Tetratoma fungorum*, and many others in elms; *Gnorinus variabilis*, and various *Elaters* in oaks, may serve as examples. A tree in a state of decay is a perfect treasure to a beetle-hunter: in the incipient stage of destruction, the bark and the space immediately beneath it, are sometimes full of beetles, *Salpingus*, *Biphyllus*, *Tiresias*, *Mycetophagus*, *Phloiophilus*, &c., and when decomposition is further advanced and Fungi appear, there is a further increase of genera and species.

From rotten branches of oak, picked up in Richmond Park in April, I have reared *Conopalpus testaceus*.

Trees just felled attract many beetles. At Hainault Forest, on the 9th April, 1841, I took twenty-six specimens of *Cucujus dermestoides* under the bark of an oak partially stripped: these are all long ago dispersed, and last year I went to try and get a new supply, but acres upon acres of ground have been entirely

cleared of the trees, and the very roots grubbed up. I found a few oaks just felled, but no *Cucujus*; nor have I heard that any other collector was more fortunate; if he were I should be obliged to him for a specimen. The whole of this Hainault Forest is doomed to destruction; and if the *Cucujus*, or any other of the rarities peculiar to the place are to be taken, there is no time to be lost.

We have a good deal to learn about wood-feeding beetles; and if those collectors who can get access to old trees will only take the trouble to make notes of what they find, we may all be instructed.—J. W. D.

HYMENOPTERA. — Simultaneous with the appearance of the *Andrenidæ* a race of parasitic bees will be observed hovering about, and occasionally entering their burrows for the purpose of depositing their eggs upon the food stored up by the industrious *Andrena*: these parasites belong to the genus *Nomada*, a gaily-painted race, who “toil not, neither do they spin;” they have been called wasp-bees, but they resemble those industrious insects in nothing but their colouring: of this genus of bees the following species may be found during April:—*Nomada borcalis*, *succincta*, *alternata*, *Lathburiana*, *signata*, *furva*, and *ruficornis*: there are twenty-four species of these parasites, which appear each simultaneous with the bees whose habitations they infest.

Several species of humble-bees may now be met with; all the specimens taken will most likely prove to be females: these have lived through the winter carefully concealed in some snug corner; workers are seldom taken so early: the species most frequently met with about this period are *Bombus terrestris*, *pratorum*, *lucorum*, *soroensis*, *lapidarius*, *hortorum*, and about the end of the month *Bombus muscorum*, *senilis*, and *sylvarum*, usually appear.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

A *resumé* of the known *Elachista* larvæ will probably be found much to facilitate additional discoveries.

In *Dactylis glomerata* (a grass which any one may know from the main stems which branch out from the root not being round, but flat) two larvæ make linear straight mines, viz., *E. atricomella* and *luticomella*; one makes an inflated puckered mine, *E. gangabella*, and one makes a broad flattish mine at the top of the grass-leaf, *E. cygnipennella*.

In *Holcus mollis* (that soft velvety-feeling grass), and sometimes in *Bromus*, the broad flat mine of *E. rufocinerea* occurs.

In *Bromus erectus* we find the straight, narrow, pink-tinged mine of *E. subnigrella*.

In *Bromus asper* and *Brachypodium sylvaticum* is the slightly puckered brownish mine of *E. Megerlella*.

In *Aira caspitosa* (that very harsh rough grass which feels like a file when you try to draw it between the finger and thumb) we know of two mines, the narrow straight mine of *E. albifrontella*, and the broad mine (occupying the whole width of the top of the leaf) of *E. Zona-riella*.

In the leaves of *Poa Aquatica* we have the rather slender hardly perceptibly paler mines of *E. Poæ*, and in a species of *Poa* growing under hedges is the broadish mine of the black-headed larva of *Elachista Gregsoni*; it was in some species of *Poa*, the pale-headed larva of *E. nigrella*, with which we are still imperfectly acquainted, was first found.

In *Holcus Mollis*, and other grasses, the larvæ of *El. obscurella* and its pretty consort *pulehella* occur.

In a slender short grass on Box Hill (the name of which I do not know) the larva of *El. Bedellella* makes a pretty



whitish mine, the mined tip of the leaf becoming pink.

Besides the above-named *grass*-feeding larvæ, we have several which feed in the leaves of different species of *Carex*, viz., *E. cinereopunctella*, mining down from the tip of the leaves of *Carex glauca*, occurs in sheltered situations among junipers at Sanderstead; *E. Gleichenella*, making whitish broad mines in a leaf of *Carex*, on sandy heaths; *E. biatomella*, also with a similar habit, on Box Hill; and *E. Kilnunella*, making long mines in a *Carex* growing in boggy places.

Then we have the large whitish blotches in the leaves of *Arundo phragmites*, formed by the larvæ of *E. cerusella*, and the mines in *Eleocharis*-stems of *E. Rhynchospora*.

An *Elachista* larva in *Scirpus lacustris* found by Mr. Scott, in 1854, was never reared.

I have purposely omitted to mention here the dogwood-mining *Treitschkiella*, and the *Clinopodium vulgare*-miner *E. Brunnichella*, because they ill consort with the graminivorous group.—H. T. STANTON; April 7, 1856.

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#### THE LINNEAN SOCIETY.

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We are happy in being able to announce that this venerable Society, the parent of all the other Natural History Societies in Britain, appears to have shaken off the lethargy that has so long oppressed it, and under the auspices of its new President shows signs of latent life and vigour: the best symptom is the publication, in a cheap and separate form, of the Journal of the Society's Proceedings: No 1 is just out, and the publication will be continued quarterly. It is to contain such papers communicated to the Society as are not deemed to require illustration in quarto, besides an account of the Proceedings at the even-

ing meetings. When the long interval that has elapsed between the appearance of the parts of the 'Transactions' is considered, this new periodical will be a great boon to those country and other members who could not bear read valuable papers which would have slumbered for years in manuscript before they came to light in the 'Transactions.' Whether this sign of life will react in strengthening the Society remains to be seen. For the bulk of naturalists the circle embraced by this Society is too wide: it is only the man of wealth, leisure or surface, that can avail himself of it; but we have a reverence for it nevertheless, and hope that it may make yet more efforts, for which there is abundant room, to become useful to the mass of naturalists.

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#### ERRATUM.

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The time fixed for the delivery of the Essay on the Natural History of *Gelechia terrella* to the Entomological Society, is fixed for the 31st December next, and not the 1st June, 1857, as mentioned in our last.

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#### OBITUARY.

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On the 7th of December last, at Fern Grove, River Hutt, New Zealand, died William Swainson, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S., Assistant Commissary General, late of Tittenhanger, Hertfordshire, aged 66. Mr. Swainson was well known in scientific circles as a propounder of fanciful theories, and was the author of the Zoological volumes of the 'Cabinet Cyclopædia;' in the volume on Taxidermy and the Biography of Zoology, pp. 338—351, will be found his own autobiographical sketch.

CAPTURE OF *PETASIA NUBECULOSA*.—Mr. Foxcroft has forwarded to Mr. S. Stevens a living specimen of *P. nubeculosa* for exhibition at the next meeting of the Entomological Society. Mr. Foxcroft has taken several at Rannoeh.

ABUNDANCE OF EARLY NOCTUIDÆ.—We hear that more than one collector in the north of England has found the early *Noctuidæ* very abundant at the sallow-blooms this month; *Tenioecampa opima*, *gracilis*, *Populeti* being the best species. *Populeti* and *munda* have also been attracted to sugar. The larvæ of *Noctuidæ* are reported to be more numerous than usual.

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE WORLD OF INSECTS; a *Guide to its Wonders*. By J. W. DOUGLAS, Secretary to the Entomological Society of London. Price 3s. 6d. Van Voorst. (Second notice).

We called attention in our first to this pleasant, unassuming little work, and beg now to lay another extract before our readers.

"The garden being an artificial assemblage of certain plants within a restricted space, there to be cultivated for the sake of their foliage, flowers, or fruit, it follows that all the insects attached thereto have thus the conditions favourable to their increase proportionably multiplied and cared for. Some insects accordingly abound in gardens, not only in those attached to mansions in the country, but in those small parallelograms attached to the modest suburban residences, which are ironically, or by courtesy, called gardens, but the number of *species* found is not great. Many garden flowers, however, are attractive to insects born and bred beyond the bound-

dary wall, and draw them from the surrounding woods or fields; so far a garden is an advantage to a collector, for some of the visitors are rare and not otherwise to be obtained, or at least not without great trouble; I allude more particularly to the *Sphingidæ*,

"Soft moths that kiss  
The sweet lips of the flowers and harm not,"

hovering over them, *Petunias* especially in some years in great abundance. I suspect that if gardens near the south coast were attentively watched on summer evenings, the number of our native species of *Sphingidæ*, at present very small, might be increased, and some of the rarer species of the family be more often taken than they are at present."

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*Now ready, price 3s.,*

PRACTICAL HINTS RESPECTING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES. By RICHARD SHIELD.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, April 19, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 4.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF AN INSECT BEING BRITISH?

SOME persons are very much puzzled with this question; we will endeavour to clear up the difficulties by which we admit it to be surrounded. A lioness was once found at large on Salisbury Plain, but it is not on that account numbered amongst the British Mammalia. No doubt had there been a 'Zoologist' in existence at the time, in which to record such *notabilia*, some Wiltshire naturalist, zealous to increase the catalogue of animals of his native county, would have called attention to the fact of a new British Mammal! and an interesting discussion would probably have arisen.

Ornithologists include in their lists of British birds any bird that has been shot at large in our islands, whether its home be America, China or Australia; but entomologists have never acted on that principle, and, if the study of the Entomology of a single isolated district is to be of any practical value, it is to be hoped that they never will. There are very few parts of the globe which have not contributed to furnish us with living insects, but as they are not generally consigned to any particular party, nor even entered in the manifest of the vessel that brings them over, we do not receive a certificate

of their foreign origin, and when we first meet with such things they frequently get entered into our lists of indigenous species quite innocently. A subsequent discovery of the real habitat of the "stray beastie" enables us to purify our list by expunging the foreigner.

Those insects are held to be British which breed here permanently, whether originally indigenous or not. It is extremely probable that *Lithocolletis Messaniella* has been imported along with its favourite food-plant, the evergreen oak, but it is so completely naturalized here that <sup>no</sup> one thinks of rejecting it from his collection as a non-British species. Again, *Æcophora pseudospretella* and *Gelechia cerealella* have probably both been domiciled here through the agencies of commerce; but the former is quite as much at home in the metropolis as the cockroach, which also was not originally a native.

Some insects are occasional visitors, not breeding regularly here, but coming across the channel voluntarily in particular seasons; thus *Charocampa Nervi*, properly at home in the South of France and in Italy, occasionally wanders over Germany, the North of France, and visits our southern coast. It evidently does not belong to the same class of visitors as those beetles which we import from tropical countries in the larva state in logs of wood.

If *Callimorpha Hera* has similar periodie fits of migration northwards, we might expect it occasionally on our southern coast, but there is little doubt that, were the South of Ireland and all the counties bordering the British channel well searched, several species we do not at present number as British would be met with, and perhaps *Hera* would be among them.

round London. The bee is probably the female of *Anthophora retusa*, as your description agrees therewith: it is not a rare species. We would recommend to your attention Smith's 'List of British Bees.'

W. HARGREAVES.—See the answer to J. H. R. in last week's number: setting-boards may also be procured of the parties there mentioned.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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MR. STAINTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. CLARKE.—Your larva appears to be one of the Bombycina, probably a *Liparis*, but it is so young that it is not easy to be certain. The case is the hybernaeulum in which it has lain all winter. Larvæ of Noctuidæ may be found at night, upon birch and willow bushes in particular, but no bush or plant should at this season go without an examination by the light of a lantern. Many larvæ will drop to the ground as soon as a light is turned upon them, so the collector should be prepared by slipping a net underneath beforehand.

T. B. W.—Your moth is *Chrysoclista Linneella*, very common on lime trees

*Endromis versicolor*, &c.—I was at Tilgate Forest lately, and saw six of *Endromis versicolor*, but could not get them. *Brephos Parthenias* and *Ceropacha videns* were in plenty. I took *Bembidium affine* and other Coleoptera.—J. HEMMINGS, 2, Bedford Buildings, Brighton; April 17, 1856.

*Ennomos illustraria* and *sublunaria*.—I have succeeded in breeding specimens of *Ennomos illustraria* from eggs of an autumnal female, which proves *E. sublunaria* to be only the second brood of *E. illustraria*.—EDWIN DAVIS, Stapleton Road, Bristol; April 16, 1856.

Captures of Lepidoptera last week.—On the 12th instant I took another fine *Aleueis pictaria* at Dartford Heath; two *Spilonota pauperana* in lanes near Darenth Wood; *Coecyx argyrana* on oaks in woods, and *Heusimene fimbriana* flying; *Semioseopsis Steinkellneriana* in hedges, the time of flight being from daybreak to sunrise; *Depressaria ocellana* by night, at the bottom of old hedges; *Chauliodus Charophyllellus* flying over ivy. The cold easterly winds of the last three days has put a stop to the flight of insects.—H. J. HARDING, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch; April 17, 1856.

Coleoptera at Hainault Forest.—On the 13th I went specially to hunt again for *Cucujus dermestoides*. Directly I got to

the "Maypole," at Barking Side, I accosted a man, loitering down the road, and who appeared likely to give me the information I wanted, and, after a few preliminary questions, ascertained that a larger space of ground was to be cleared of trees this year than last, that a great quantity of hornbeam was cut down, but they had not yet begun to cut the oaks; "in fact," said he, "we commence to-morrow." Here, then, was an end to my hopes of capturing the *Cucujus*, for it has only been taken under the bark of newly-felled oaks. All that I eventually got were a species of *Tomicus*, *Sylvanus unidentatus*, *Cerylon histeroides*, &c., all under bark of oaks felled last year, and *Triphyllus bifasciatus* under bark of dead hornbeam.—J. W. DOUGLAS, Lee; April 18, 1856.

*Captures of Rarities near Worcester.*—I am particularly requested by Edward Smith to confirm what he has written to you concerning certain of his captures. I therefore beg to say that I saw a vast number (I estimated them about twelve hundred) of *Pionea stramentalis* in his possession: that was in the winter following the date of capture; and, after the closest observation and the strictest inquiry, I am forced to believe what he asserted, that he took them in Shrawley Wood. He is a most indefatigable and expert collector of Macro-Lepidoptera, but I must say that when the habitat of a species has been worked by him during two or three seasons, it is almost impossible to discover an individual. Methinks such wholesale destruction cannot be beneficial to science, and ought to be discountenanced. On the 13th inst. I saw in Edward Smith's possession a pinned, but still living, *Cloantha conspicillaris*: that is not the first that has been captured here, inasmuch as I took a male in 1852 or 1853 in my garden, at rest on a door. In your 'Annual' for 1856, you mention the capture of *Synia muscosa*: I beg to inform you that I took a male, at

light, in my garden at Dinas Green, near here, on the 13th of last September; it was a little over-flown.—S. C. FLETCHER, 9, St. John's, Worcester; April 19, 1856.

*Captures at the "Brushes" near Manchester.*—I took *Heusimene fimbriana* and *Amphysa prodromana* at the "Brushes" yesterday, and found *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*, with larvæ of *Nepticula Weaveri* and *Lithocolletis Vacciniella*, feeding in the leaves; also larvæ of *Euchromia flammeana* and *E. Arbutana*, and *Coccyx ustomaculana*, &c. — C. S. GREGSON, Edge Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool; April 17, 1856.

I have captured at the "Brushes," last week, *Heusimene fimbriana*, *Amphysa prodromana* and *Gelechia æthiops*.—S. CARTER, 20, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester; April 20, 1856.

*The Spider, Theridion variegatum.*—On the 13th inst. I found, under the bark of an old hornbeam at Hainault Forest, a little spider's nest, about the size of a pea, shaped like a balloon, covered with flossy silk of a fine red-brown colour, and containing seven round pellets, which had free motion. It was supported on a flexible foot-stalk, being altogether nearly half an inch in length, and formed one of the prettiest objects imaginable. I thought it might interest Mr. Meade, of Bradford, and sent it to him; and, with his usual kindness, that gentleman has given me the following information, which I communicate for the benefit of all that it may concern:—"This pretty little spider's nest is constructed by the *Theridion variegatum*, Walk., a species which has been described by Blackwall, in the 'Linnean Transactions,' vol. xviii. p. 627, under the name of *Theridion callens*. It is not a common spider, but appears to be generally distributed, as Mr. Blackwall has found it in Wales. I have also met with it occasionally in this neighbourhood and in Norfolk, and Mr. Stainton sent me a specimen of the cocoon last year from

the neighbourhood of London."—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; April 21, 1856.

I have taken a dozen of *Noctua leucographa*, nearly as many of *Taniocampa rubricosa*, and four specimens of *Xantholeuca eroeago*; *T. munda* and *gracilis* have been common on the willow-blooms in this neighbourhood.—W. MAY, *East Grinstead, Sussex*; April 19, 1856.

*Nomada borealis*.—This bee has appeared in unusual numbers this season, and may now be captured at the N.W. corner of Hampstead Heath. I have taken one male and nine females; a friend has also taken a few. *Andrena Clarkella*, upon which it is parasitic, has also been very plentiful, and may still be found. — FREDERICK SMITH, *British Museum*; April 21, 1856.

*Noctuidæ flying in the Day-time*.—I have on several occasions taken Noctuidæ, especially *Taniocampa gothica* and *T. gracilis*, on willows in the middle of the day, particularly in Scotland.—E. C. BUXTON, *Myddleton Hall, Warrington*; April 21, 1856.

*Larva in a Rush (Juneus conglomeratus?)*.—This may probably prove to be the larva of *Glyphipteryx Thrasonella*. I have known of the existence of a larva in the rush for three years: at that time I found one, which died; last year I found the empty tenements only; and now I have succeeded, after lying for about four hours in a bog on the top of my waterproof, in finding a few. I cannot say that I have hit upon the best way of knowing whether they are at home, but I detect them in two ways, viz. by observing whether the outer skin of the rush is gnawed at intervals downwards, until the larva gets to the top of the main stem, where it makes a hole and goes in, or, secondly, if in the stem of the rush one or more minute holes be seen, for down the cylinder it is sure to be found at work, often an inch or two below the level of the water. The plants require to be taken up by the roots, as otherwise

the larva will either be missed or get squeezed. It is about three-eighths of an inch in length, pale, and with a pinkish tinge on the back. The head, a large patch on the corselet and anal segment deep pitchy black, shining. On each of the other segments are about ten brown spots, six out of each ten being larger and more conspicuous than the others: these are disposed somewhat triangularly, three on each side: from each spot starts a central hair, also brown. It would be well if a few persons in different districts would look for and try to rear it, in case those now found should die. I may also state that the plants in which I found them, in all instances, were young ones. — JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton*; April 21, 1856.

*Habit of Heusimene fimbriana*.—April 16. Went to the "Brushes," with the intention of finding *Heusimene fimbriana*: took it by beating the oaks. Its habit is to fall down, dart down or fly down; unfortunately the last method is the exception, and it requires a really sharp and practised eye to see it fall or dart. When down it lies upon its back, and, on the slightest stir, it gets under the dead leaves by a series of jerks, using its long hind-legs as propellers.

*Economy of Micropteryx & Argyrethia Brockeella*. — Captures, &c. — April 20. Went to Withmell Birch Clough with J. B. Hodgkinson and W. Ashworth; took a green pupa of *Micropteryx unimaculella* (out this morning), larva and pupa of *Argyrethia Brockeella*, larva of *Polia tineta* and an unknown *Tortrix*-larva under moss on stones, also a large unknown pupa in a slight web, in the same moss. From 9 to 11 A.M. *Amphysa prodromana* was on the wing freely. Saw a moth on the wing, which I was afraid to name; not being satisfied about it I went back from Preston next day. The sun being over-clouded for a short time, I had the pleasure of seeing *Eudromis versicolor* sitting at the end of a birch-

bough—a fine male. This being a cloudy day, I only got twenty-one *A. prodromana*, some not fine. Took a few more larvæ and pupæ, including three more *Micropteryx*-pupæ in small mines in the lichen and bark of birches. I think this habit of *Micropteryx* will be new to you. I have long thought that if the larva was a leaf-feeder I should have taken it. The same remark applies to that of *A. Brockeella*, which eats both lichens and bark; I have found its mines in both: it eats the bark where it is alive and full of sap. It spins a white web, and several cocoons are placed side by side, but are discoloured and hid with *frass*, rotten bark and lichen: a penknife finds them best: *prick round the tree*.

*Lithocolletis Vacciniella* and *Nepticula Weaveri*.—Touching these two species, pray let every one know that it is just nonsense “to send a sack to Scotland.” Every mountain on which the food-plant grows seems to produce the larvæ: I have lately found them at the “Brushes,” and yesterday near Chorley. The reason they are bad to find is, that as soon as they are nearly full-fed, the leaf falls off, and must be searched for on the ground. My impression is that every one of the so-called Scotch insects might be got in England if our collectors would bring a little science and labour to bear upon the mountains of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland. *Petasia nubeculosa* and *Notodonta Carmelita* will be got at the “Brushes” some day!—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool; April 22, 1856.*

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR APRIL.

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LEPIDOPTERA.—*Lobophora polycommata* is now to be met with: in 1851 it was taken in some plenty near Keswick, by Mr. John Harrison, jun., and the following notice of its capture appeared

in the ‘Zoologist:’—“In the month of April I was agreeably surprised at meeting with *Lobophora polycommata* in plenty; during my rambles through the woods bordering on the sunny banks of our lake I had taken a few in the same locality in preceding years, and, on their appearance this season, devoted more of my time and attention to their capture than in former years; success rewarded my pursuits, for in about a fortnight, in company with my brother-collector, Mr. William Greenep, of this place, we found we had taken an unusual number. The mode of capture was by means of a lantern; the time between the hours of 8 and 12 P.M. We also met with them during the day, when leisure permitted us to look for them. They were found chiefly on the trunks of trees, free from moss or cobwebs, and, when found upon bushes, seemed carefully to avoid the leaves. I find they are not often met with on the wing; the only time I have seen them flying is about an hour after sunset. I am convinced that if, when met with, they were well looked after, we should no longer have to reckon them among the rare (however local) Lepidoptera of our island.”

The larva of *Odonestis potatoria* may be found in hedge-sides by those of our younger readers who are in want of so common an insect.

COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—I said nothing about the small water-beetles, but several species are now to be found. *Heteroceri* on and in mud: I have found them below Gravesend. *Parnus Dumerilii*, banks of the Wandle and River Mole; very scarce now, though not rare formerly; perhaps only wants looking for. *Helophorus dorsalis*, Wandsworth Common and Norfolk; rare. *H. nanus*, Cambridge; not taken for 20 years: surely there is some one collector on the spot who will look for it. *Hydrana*: the Rev. H. Clark concludes his Notes on this genus thus—

"PATIENCE: there may be in the net one hundred examples, all, without especial exercise of this entomological virtue, to be thrown aside with the *débris*. First of all, separate (with the net *in the water*), as far as possible, all leaves, sticks, &c., by washing; then spread out carefully the remainder, and *watch*." ('Zoologist' for April, p. 5053). This advice is good when searching for other insects besides *Hydræna*.—J. W. D.

HYMENOPTERA.—Two or three species of the genus *Osmia* are now to be met with; *Osmia aurulenta* and *bicolor*, both of which occasionally avail themselves of the spiral tubes of snail-shells, so admirably adapted for their purposes; the rare *Osmia Xanthomelana* would probably be found abundantly, if any one would pay a visit to Sandown Bay, in the Isle of Wight.

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#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

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This is not exactly the season at which one expects to look for the larvæ of the genus *Lithocolletis*, but on that very account it is the more necessary to call the attention of our readers to one or two species which ought now to be looked for: I allude to

\* *Scopariella*

\* *Uliciolella*

The \* prefixed, &c. (as in No. 1).

I lately received from that extraordinarily acute and energetic entomologist, Herr Schmid, of Frankfort-on-the-Maine, larvæ of *Lithocolletis quinquenotella*, a species which is common there, and feeds on the *Genista sagittalis*: now this larva has a somewhat singular style of mining. The stem of this plant has curious little projections, forming, as it were, three keels: the larva forms its mine, which puts one excessively in mind of that of *Elachista gangabella*, between two of these keels, occupying the hollow

space between them: now we assume, and I believe we are quite justified in so doing, that our *Scopariella* feeds on the broom, and our *Uliciolella* on the furze. Now the leaves of the broom are very small, and the furze bears nothing that is vulgarly termed leaves: where, then, do the larvæ of these species feed? Is it not possible—nay, seeing the habit of the cognate *quinquenotella*, is it not probable—that these yet-to-be-discovered larvæ feed on the young stems, making bladderly exerescences thereon. I don't wish my readers to prick their noses by peering into every furze-bush they come to, but those entomologists who know the precise locality where they take *Uliciolella* year after year, are strongly recommended to try if, with this hint, they cannot find the larva of that interesting species.

Broom occurs abundantly in many places, and in many places no doubt *Lithocolletis Scopariella* abounds: I am well aware that it is rare in collections, but that is just because no one takes it: now where the perfect insect occurs the larva must be far more plentiful, for the larvæ have to produce not only the entire crop of the moths, but also a goodly crop of those little living gems that are parasitic upon them: if these larvæ make visible blotches, whether on the leaves, young stems or flowers, they ought to be found, and, as now is the season for the *Genista*-feeding *Quinquenotella*, it is very probable that now is the time for the broom-feeder.—H. T. STAINTON.

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#### NORTHERN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Liverpool, March 29, 1856.—B. COOKE, Esq., President, in the chair.

T. H. ALHS, Esq., J. W. HARRIS, Esq., and JOHN WALKER, Esq., were elected Members of the Society.

J. COOPER, Esq., WARRINGTON; G. BELLELL, Esq., LONDON; H. DOUBLEDAY, Esq.,



Epping; J. C. Dale, Esq., Glanville's Wootton; S. Carter, Esq., Manchester; H. T. Stainton, Esq., Lewisham; and J. W. Douglas, Esq., Lee, were elected Honorary Members of the Society.

Mr. N. Cooke exhibited a whitethorn-stick, on which were the eggs of *Orgyia fascelina*, beautifully arranged in concentric circles. They were obtained on the 1st of January last, and hatched in a few days afterwards. It was remarked that the eggs of this species are often hatched in the autumn.

Several photographic portraits of entomologists, by Maull and Polyblank, of London, forming part of the series of the Literary and Scientific Portrait Club, were laid on the table; those of S. Stevens and J. W. Douglas were much admired.

Mr. N. Greening exhibited a box of Lepidoptera from Mr. Buxton, amongst which was a beautiful variety of *Dosithea virgularia*, on which a most interesting discussion took place, and Mr. Gregson expatiated on the value of varieties, and the necessity of keeping them in collections, as they facilitate decisions as to what are or are not species.

Mr. Gregson exhibited a magnificent series of varieties of *Arctia Caja*, varying from nearly white to brown and quite black; a most beautiful variety of *Caradrina cubicularis*, which might have been considered a distinct species if Mr. G. had not seen intermediate varieties; a specimen of *Lamprosetia Verhuellega*, taken at Llanferis, North Wales, in July; a specimen of *Incurvaria tenuicornis* ♀, taken from sallows at Wharnccliffe, Yorkshire; and a specimen of *Eudorea atomalis*, Doubl., taken in Wales last July, of a much lighter colour than the Scotch examples. He afterwards exhibited specimens of the genus *Eupithecia* rearranged, on which an animated discussion took place, and Mr. Gregson read notes on the synonymy of the genus, commenting thereon, and contending that *E. Callunaria*, Staint., *E. Faginaria*,

Greene, *E. albipunctaria*, Haw., and *E. sylvaria*, Hüb. (fig. 439), were identical, and that all these varieties could be taken on the Lancashire Mosses; that *E. plumbeolaria* and *E. Begrandaria* were one species, for which the former name must be retained; and that *E. Succenturiata*, Lin., *E. subfulvata*, Haw., and *E. cognata*, St., were all referrible to one species. He remarked that, in reply to a question, Mr. Doubleday says, "The name *E. lanceolaria* in my catalogue must sink, as the insect on which it was introduced into our list is unquestionably an abnormal form of *E. exiguaris*, Hüb.;" and observed that all the specimens which he had seen in British cabinets as *lanceolaria* were only large forms of *innotaria*, Hüb.; and that *E. pumilaria*, Hüb., and *E. rufifasciaria*, Haw., are one species, which is double-brooded, appearing commonly among gorse in April and August.

The paper of the evening, "On the Pleasures and Pains of Entomology," was read by the author; and a vote of thanks to those friends who had contributed to the pleasures of the evening was put and heartily responded to.—C. S. G.

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We are requested to announce that the Rev. Hamlet Clark is leaving England for a few months, and that the 'Nomenclature of British Colcoptera' may be obtained of Roger E. Clark, Esq., Trinity College, Cambridge.

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LISTS OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA.—  
Mr. J. J. Reeve, Newhaven, Sussex, wishes us to state that he has had printed a number of 'Lists of British Lepidoptera, except Tineina (for Synonyms see Doubleday's List),' which he will be happy to supply at 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen, and that stamps can be forwarded for them.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 5.]

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## CHEAP WORKS ON ENTOMOLOGY.

As one of the "signs of the times," we wish to call the attention of our readers more particularly to the advertisement, which appeared in last week's 'Intelligencer,' of a new and CHEAPER edition of Kirby and Spence's 'Introduction to Entomology.' Our own opinion is that this work might long ago have been brought out in a cheap form with advantage to every body concerned, and that, by keeping the price at 3*l.* 6*d.*, a premium was offered for the production of inferior works treating of much the same subject, and such works, if *professing* to teach the rudiments of the study of insects, and if offered at 8*s.* or 10*s.*, would command a ready sale, on account of their greater cheapness. For, after all, the parents who buy books for the children are not likely to be well informed of the various merits of the different elementary works on Entomology, and of two works treating on the same subject, that offered at the lowest price will always stand a good chance of selling best. And, in point of fact, the reputation and price of Kirby and Spence's 'Introduction to Entomology' has tended greatly to promote the sale of inferior and cheaper works. Purchasers were attracted to the subject by the reputation of the work, and when discouraged by the price asked for the two octavo

volumes, they naturally inquired if there were no cheaper publications on the same subject, and thus "Kirby and Spence" actually served as a decoy-duck to push the sale of many inferior publications.

"Mais, nous avons changé tout cela," and now "Kirby and Spence" itself appears at a price distaneing all competitors from the field, and making more than one entomological writer look blue at the thought of the great depreciation in the value of his copyright. When a revolution has taken place, those, whether originally parties to it or not, who first adapt their actions to the altered state of circumstances in which they find themselves, will be the first to profit by the new state of things: it was thus that Sir Robert Peel, by accepting the Reform Bill when it was "un fait accompli," and, by basing his course of action upon it, speedily regained all the power which a less compliant statesman would have irretrievably lost.

"Kirby and Spence" will, in its present form, find its way into many houses where it has not hitherto penetrated, it will speedily attain a circulation, of which Mr. Kirby, in his most sanguine moments, never dreamed, and which he never lived to see; but it is to us a great source of gratification that the other author, Mr. Spence, is still alive and well (and long may he continue so), and

able to enjoy the pleasure incidental to the increasing circulation of the labours of his youth.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STAINTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. H. and W. G., MACDUFF.—The larvæ in the holly-leaves are those of a Dipterous insect, *Phytomyza Aquifolia*, very common everywhere.

E. A.—Notices of habits of species will always be acceptable; descriptions, further than as guides to the uninitiated *what to look for*, would not be suitable for our columns.

A YOUNG ENTOMOLOGIST.—The larva of *O. Potatoria* feeds on coarse grasses growing by the sides of ditches and hedge-banks. The larvæ you have found on nettle are probably *Aretia caxa*. *Hyale* was common last autumn in many places, commoner than it has been since 1842.

W. T., TRURO.—It is unfortunately quite true that the volume of the 'Insecta Britannica, Lepidoptera Tincina,' is out of print. The following advertisement lately appeared in the 'Athenæum':—

"TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE 'INSECTA BRITANNICA.'—Any subscriber not caring to retain his copy of the third volume

(Stainton's Lepidoptera Tincina) may hear of a PURCHASER by applying to Edward Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street. 25s. will be paid for a clean copy."

E. G. C., BRIGHTON.—An offer of duplicates of *Thyatria derasa* appeared in our first number at p. 7. *Sinapis* does occur near Brighton. Are you quite sure the *Audrena* found in the old cottage in Oxfordshire is really *Aprilina*?

R. K.—If your chrysalides have been kept in dry sand all the winter, they are probably dead; though insects in the chrysalis state can do with very little moisture, they must have some. A mixture of sand and vegetable mould, kept moist by having wet moss placed on the top, is the best treatment for chrysalides.

J. N. W., CHELSEA.—Had the larva on the tobacco-plant a horn at the tail? Any entomologist above fourteen years of age is admitted with pleasure at Mr. Stainton's on Wednesday evenings; and the more ignorant the tyro the more desirable it is he should come.

R. H. F., WATERINGBURY.—Whether your larvæ are rarities or not, if you wish to breed from the imagos produced, you must get more than two larvæ, or you will be counting your chickens before they are hatched.

T. B., BRISTOL.—Your *Geometra* larva is probably that of *Boarmia roboraria*; it is waiting for the young oak-leaves.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

*Noctuidæ flying in the day time.*—Mr. Douglas seems rather surprised to see Noctuidæ flying in the sun at shallow-blooms. I have seen there the little *Taniocampa cruda* on more than one occasion, with two or three other species, at their favourite food.—H. J. HARDING, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch; April 24, 1856.

*Noctuidæ flying in the day-time.*—"I saw your remarks about *T. cruda* flying by day; I wonder you have not noticed them before. About a month ago English went to Ongar Park Wood, to try after some *Brephos* for me, and he said the woods were literally alive with *cruda* and *stabilis*, principally the former. When I used to go out, years ago, I have seen *cruda*, *stabilis*, *gothica* and *instabilis* at the sallows in the day-time, and English said, last night when I was talking to him about it, that once in Park Hall Woods, on a very bright day, the sallows were covered with these four species."

*Harpalyce silaceata.*—"Last summer I took a wasted female *H. silaceata*, in May or June, in our garden; she laid thirteen or fourteen eggs, which hatched, and the larvæ became full-grown in July: in August four splendid moths came out, all alike and having a broad, deep black, uninterrupted central fascia as in *suffumata*; no more moths came out last autumn, but this spring nine have appeared, all very nearly alike, but differing from the autumnal ones in having the central fascia divided by the yellow lines—the variety *insulata* of Haworth. They were all fed in the same cage, and went into the pupa state within a day or two of the same time. I had a lot of eggs from a female last July; these all hatched and were fed; a lot of moths came out last autumn, and they have occasionally been coming out ever since—to-day I see two moths, and part of the caterpillars are still feeding."

The above are extracts from a letter I have just received from my friend Mr. Henry Doubleday; and they are both of sufficient interest to be laid before your readers. With regard to the *Noctuidæ* flying about the sallows in the day-time, it is not wonderful that I was ignorant, by experience, of a fact which appears to be so well known, considering that it is by the merest chance I ever see

a sallow in bloom by daylight: I have to do my best all day long among dust and gas, and I am told that I am a sallow myself. But it is rather curious that I never heard the subject mentioned. With regard to the appearance of *H. silaceata*,—part of a brood in autumn and part in the spring,—it is very curious, but it has its parallels in other species. But the difference, not only of colour, but of marking, in the proportions of the brood is very remarkable, and is a subject that, if studied, may possibly lead to unexpected results. The rearing of *E. illustraria* from eggs of *sublunaria*, as recorded last week, is another somewhat curious case.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; April 25, 1856.

*Ctenonympha Davus.*—The larva of this species feeds on the cotton-grass, near the roots, in May; it is green, with six white lines. The pupa is green, with three dusky stripes on each wing-case; it is suspended by the tail. I have an empty pupa-case in my cabinet.—JOSEPH CHAPPELL, 2, *Partington Street, Tontine Street, Salford.*

*Offer of Duplicates.*—I have a few duplicates, which may be useful to some young collectors, viz., *Papilio Machaon*, *Cynthia Cardui*, *Grapta C-album*, *Argynnis Adippe*, *Smerinthus Tiliae*. I am very anxious to get *Argynnis Aglaia*, if any one has it to spare.—S. BINGHAM, *Bank, Newnham, Gloucestershire.*

*Insects injurious to Clover.*—As I am writing on the insects injurious to clover crops and artificial grasses, I should be glad, through the medium of your journal, to ask your correspondents to favour me with the names of the Micro-Leps. which feed upon clover, nonsuch, trefoil and medick, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Vicia sativa*, Sainfoin, &c.—JOHN CURTIS, *Belitha Villas, Barnsbury Park*; April 25, 1856.

*Brephos Notha.*—I am assured by several persons that it was *Brephos Parthenias*, and not *B. Notha*, that was taken at West Wickham on the 30th of March.

This is all the more likely to be true, as *Parthenias* is a birch-feeder, and Wickham Wood abounds with birches, whereas *Notha* is an aspen-feeder, and I do not know of one such tree in the wood.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; April 26, 1856.

*Food of Eupithecia Larvæ.*—Last Tuesday I visited M. Guenée at Chartres, and was speaking to him concerning *Eupithecia rectangulata*, when he told me that he was well acquainted with the larva, that it was very injurious in orchards, eating the young fruit of apples and pears, and he added that, in his forthcoming work on the Geometrina (which he hopes to have published next summer), he had gone very fully into the habits of this species, on account of the injury it causes. I asked him if all the *Eupithecia* larvæ were not seed-feeders, but he said, No; for that our *Abbreviata*, and the smaller similar species which we had called *Subumbrata*, both feed on the leaves of oak. *Succenturiata* he had reared from larvæ feeding on the seeds of the yarrow (*Achillea Millefolium*).—H. T. STAINTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham*; April 28, 1856.

*Remarks on Mr. C. S. Gregson's Note relating to Lithocolletis vacciniella.*—In a "Chorley" (ish) mood he "brushes" up and tells you that he takes it at so and so, and that "every mountain on which the food-plant grows seems to produce the larvæ." Precisely so: no one denied this. But have societies a man or men collecting there? or have any of the parties composing such societies friends living in the neighbourhood of its occurrence who know the plant and could obtain the insect for them? or was every one to wait until Mr. Gregson laid such a thing before them? or does he intend to supply all parties himself? "Pray, let every one know that it is just nonsense" that he writes.—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton*; April 28, 1856.

*Ennomos Illustraria.*—I have captured

one specimen of this insect at light here last week.—EDWIN DAVIS, *Stapleton Road, Bristol*; April 26, 1856.

*Tinea biselliella.*—Last week I discovered, to my sorrow, that a couch and sofa of mine were inhabited by thousands of the larvæ of *T. biselliella* (as I think). I happened to be sitting on the couch when I found two or three of these little larvæ on it; on a closer examination I found more, which induced me to open the pillow, when oh! to my horror, I found it stuffed with these disgusting looking animals. I have had the couch about four years, and never saw the least sign of them before. I then went to look at my sofa, which I have had seven years; I carefully looked it over to see

"If there was any place  
Where flesh and blood could creep,"

and felt sure that this at least was safe, however: I opened the pillow, when

"Oh! what a spirit-stirring sight,  
Does to my view unfold,"

thousands of larvæ eating away at my poor unfortunate sofa; I feel sure that they could not get out when in the perfect state, and that they must have been years, most likely ever since the couch and sofa were made, breeding inside. Can you or any of the numerous readers of the 'Intelligencer' tell me if it is possible for a moth to live and lay eggs in so very confined a place as inside a sofa or couch?—ARTHUR NASH, *Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill, Bristol*; April 28, 1856.

[From our experience we are inclined to believe that several generations of moths may exist unsuspected inside a bolster or couch.]

*Ceropacha ridens.*—During the past week I have met with this insect on oak trees at Great Torrington, North Devon.—HENRY BOLT, 6, *Clarence Place, Kingsdown, Bristol*; April 29, 1856.

*Bluchista* of the vine (*Rivillei*).—M. Millière, of Lyon, who has recently bred

*Treitschkiella*, informs me that he remembers having seen a few years ago at the close of summer, some vine leaves with holes, similar to those in the mined leaves of the dogwood.—H. T. STAIN-  
TON; April 30, 1856.

*Æcophora Schæfferella*.—Herr Grabow, of Berlin, recently sent me some decayed mulberry-wood with larvæ of *Harpella Bructeella*; from this decayed wood two specimens of *Schæfferella* have just made their appearance.—H. T. STAIN-  
TON; April 30, 1856.

*Peridea trepida*.—Is it not early for this species? I saw a remarkably fine male taken on the bole of an oak at West Wickham Wood, on the 27th inst., by Mr. Faneourt, an indefatigable entomologist.—W. H. TUGWELL, 33, Wilton Place, Belgravia; April 29, 1856.

*Captures near Brighton*.—I have lately taken near Brighton the following Coleoptera:—*Trechus lapidosus* (2), *Bembidium 5-striatum*, *Anchomenus atratus*, *Procas picipes*, *Philonthus cbeninus*. In Hymenoptera:—*Anthophora Haworthana* ♀ (several), *Andrena fulvicrus* ♂ and ♀, and at Tilgate four specimens of *Nomada borealis*. I should be glad if you will rectify an inadvertence: if I mentioned last week *Ceropacha ridens*, it should have been *C. flavicornis*.—JOHN HEMMINGS, 2, Bedford Buildings, Brighton; April 28, 1856.

*Elachista tæniatella*, Zeller.—This insect, which is new to our Fauna, has been reared by me from the larva found mining the leaves of *Brachypodium sylvaticum* last September and October (see Ent. Annual, 1856, p. 64). It is closely allied to *zonariella* and *gungabella*, but distinguished at once from either of these by its having the cilia of the anterior wings unicolorous. I intend shortly to describe it in the 'Transactions of the Entomological Society,' as also *Lithocolletis aucuparicella*, bred by me for some years past from the mountain ash (see

Ent. Annual, 1856, p. 114).—JOHN SCOTT, South Stockton; April 28, 1856.

[We have not yet heard whether Herr Schmid has bred the same species from the larvæ he obtained.]

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR MAY.

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COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—Spring and autumn are the great times for Geodephaga, though there are some species that seem to be found only in the summer. Marshy ground, especially all the fens of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, &c., and other damp localities, particularly in woods, now yield a fine harvest. Among the fen insects we may mention *Odacantha melanura*, the rare *Demetrius imperialis*, *D. sigma* and *obscurouguttatus*, *Oödes Helopioides*, *Bembidium* several species, &c. Wet places in woods are also good for many species. On the coasts and the banks of tidal rivers, those pretty little beetles, the *Dyschirii*, begin to be active. *Carabus arvensis* and *C. nitens* are to be taken on heaths in the South of England. Of *Carabus cancellatus* we read, "that only four examples were taken in a chalk-pit at Northfleet, in the spring of 1826." Thirty years ago, and not another specimen! Were these four the last of the race, resolved to live or die together, and so met their fate? Were the insects really captured, and if so by whom? Or is the whole story some dealer's myth? This is none of Dr. Leach's Devonshire mysteries,—which, by the way, I think there is reason to believe in,—and if there were any remnant of the *cancellatus* race left in or near "the chalk-pit near Gravesend," undisputed possession for thirty years should have enabled the settlers to have made it a land of Goshen, and the species ought to be there now. If it be not soon found, then I vote we expunge the name from our lists; there

is no use in keeping a name without a representative. *Calosoma inquisitor* makes its annual pilgrimage up oak trees in search of caterpillars this month, and I believe it is usually in May that the rich relation of the family, *C. sycophanta*, visits the watering-places on the coast, where he may be surprised when taking a stroll, or occasionally a bathe in the sea. *Lebia crux-minor*, one of our rarest species, was beaten out of the blossoms of a hawthorn bush at Coombe Hurst, near Croydon, on the 13th May, 1841, by Mr. T. Ingall, lucky man that he is; for is it not written also that he once found in May, near Camberwell, the curious bark-beetle *Nemosoma elongatum*.—J. W. D.

HYMENOPTERA.—All “who love to hear the wild bees hum,” and have a soul to admire them may now do so to their hearts' content, for wherever you walk you will see these little creatures basking in the sun or flying from bank to bank, busily employed (some not very honestly, I am sorry to say) in providing for their future progeny.

Amongst the numerous bees that enliven our path now are *Bombus soroensis*, *sylvarum*, *museorum*, *Derhamellus*, *Apathus vestalis*, &c., *Sphecodes rufescens*, various species of *Nomada*, *Anthophora*, *Halieta*, *Andrena ciucraria*, *albicus*, *nigro-anea*, *nitida*, *albicans*, *helvola*, *varians* and *tibialis*. The three latter were so abundant last week at Hampstead that I could have got hundreds, but returning next day to procure some for a friend, I found, alas! they had entirely “gone from my gaze,” being, like most of the genus, “here to-day but gone to-morrow;” it cannot, therefore, be too much impressed on the mind of the young collector to mark his insects, and, in the words of Captain Cuttle, “When found make a note of it.”—GEORGE EDWARDS, 21, Wellington Terrace, St. John's Wood; April 28, 1856.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

The genus *Coleophora* next claims our attention, for at this period of the year the greater part of the larvæ wake up from their long brumal fast and begin to ornament their food-plants by forming large pale coloured blotches on the leaves. Of the preparatory states of the following species of *Coleophora* we know nothing!—

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| * Fabriciella    | } These are all <i>suspected</i><br>to be attached to<br>elover. |
| * deauratella    |  |
| * Frischella     |  |
| * binotapennella |  |
| * Vulnerariæ     |  |
| * niveicostella  |  |
| * Therinella     |  |
| * murinipennella |  |
| * orbitella      |  |
| * olivaceella.   |  |

The \* prefixed indicates that any one who shall *first* discover and communicate to me the transformations of twenty such species will be entitled to receive *gratis* a copy of the *entire series* of the ‘Natural History of the Tineina.’

The *Colcophora* are not easily reared, but we have rarely any difficulty in distinguishing species in the larva state, as, independently of the difference in the larvæ themselves, the food, mode of feeding, and form of case furnish us abundantly with distinctive characters.

Of the following species I shall be very glad to receive larvæ, for the purpose of having them figured and described:—*C. Wockeella*, making blotches on the leaves of *Betonica officinalis*; *C. ochrea*, making blotches on the leaves of *Helianthemum vulgare*; *C. Vibicella*, in its shining black case, blotching the leaves of *Genista tinctoria*; *C. albicosta*, feeding on *Ulex Europæus*, and I should be very pleased to hear from those who meet with this, what part of the plant the larva eats; *C. palliatella*, feeding on oak, willow, sloe, &c., and *C. curruipennella*,



on oak; *C. saturatella*, feeding on broom; *C. hemerobiella*, feeding on pear; *C. juncicolella*, feeding on the shoots of heath, in a very minute case, resembling a heath sprig; and *C. badiipennella*, feeding on ash. Some of these do not begin to feed till a month later, but there is no harm done by calling attention to them in good time.

I shall be very glad to receive larvæ of *Xysmatodoma melanella*, which may be found in their green cases on old palings; larvæ of *Gelechia mulinella*, from the flowers of broom; and of *G. diffinis*, from the roots of the sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and of *Butalis Chenopodiella*, which occurs on *Chenopodium* and *Atriplex*.

The larva of *Bucculatrix aurimaculella* should now be looked for; it mines the leaves of the ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*): it occurs freely at Mickelham, on the banks before you reach the corner of Headley Lane.—H. T. STAINTON; April 14, 1856.

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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PRACTICAL HINTS RESPECTING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES; with notices of their localities, forming a Calendar of Entomological Operations throughout the year in pursuit of Lepidoptera. By RICHARD SHIELD. Price 3s. Van Voorst. (Second notice).

In our opening number we called the attention of our readers to this little publication, and stated that we should probably recur to it another week; we have now much pleasure in doing so.

We quote the following passage from an excursion to Birch Wood in April:—

“But look, what is that large insect on the birch stem near that pool of water? Lucky again, that is *Notodonta Carmelita* (this insect also occurs at West Wickham, on the ‘Bishop’s palings’).

And now, having ‘bagged’ your game, persevere in your search, for here the unique *Solenobia Douglasii* was taken.

“And now let us beat the oaks for a little while, and see what they produce. Click goes the beating-stick among the branches. Hilloa! what are you? Oh! only *Tortricodes Hyemana*; get out, you common rascal! I can take you any time. Stop, my friend; do you want the insect? Yes! Then take it: don’t put off till tomorrow what can be done to-day; if you don’t take it now, perhaps you will not get another chance till next season, and your check will be incomplete of a common insect. I believe many cabinets are thus incomplete from the prevailing idea that common insects can be taken ‘any time,’ and therefore are to be left till the last, so that the collector frequently comes home with a few insects that he fancies that he ‘does want,’ that are not common, leaving behind him many insects that are strangers to his cabinet because they are ‘common.’

“By beating you will obtain from among the oaks *Heusimene fimbriana* and *Dasystema Salicella*; while, on the trunks of the oak trees, near the roots, *Biston prodromaria* may be found, together with *Cheimabaeche fagella*, male and female, and among the birches, flying by day, *Incurvaria pectinea* occurs.”

At the conclusion of the chapter for May we find the following:—

“And now we will suppose the tyro, for argument’s sake, to have worked assiduously at collecting the objects of his study, and by industry and perseverance to have got together a great number of species, which, apart from their intrinsic value as insects for the purposes of study, and as objects of great beauty and delicacy, possess an extrinsic value in his estimation, as being the fruits of his own labour and diligence, and as reminding him of the exquisite pleasure he has experienced in their collection. Full of this feeling,

and wishing others to share his pleasures with him, he in an unlucky or incautious moment shows his treasures to some friend whom he wishes to entice into the ranks of Entomology; when, what is his disappointment to find his friend does not appreciate at all that which he prizes so highly, and slightly inquires, 'What is the use of it?' Let not the tyro be discouraged by the wet blanket thus thrown upon his pleasure: why should his spirits be damped at the unceremonious rebuff? Of what use is it for a man to ornament his parlour-walls with choice paintings at extravagant prices, or his conservatory with beautiful exotics? The answer will probably be, because they refine and elevate the mind. True! And will not the study of Nature's works, the investigation of the beautiful, and the delight engendered by it, elevate the mind, whether the object be a beautiful painting or a beautiful insect coloured by the hand of the great Master of colour—God Himself? Most certain it will; and more than that, the study of Nature will produce effects upon a well-constituted mind that all the paintings, statuary and works of men's hands will never do. It will

"Lead from Nature up to Nature's God."

And if the tyro is in possession of a microscope, the pleasures derivable from the study of Entomology will be increased a thousandfold."

The following extract from the chapter for June will probably enable a northern correspondent, who last year considered *Anarta Myrtilli* a great rarity in his locality, to take it in some plenty:—

"And now, kind reader, let us in fancy transport ourselves to some delightful expanse of heather, alive with the myriad insects that find food and shelter amid its dense foliage, and musical with the hum of bees; such an one is the heath-field at Coomb Hurst, and its ditto at West Wickham; and now let us commence operations.

"Hilloa! hi! where are you running to as if you had been frightened? Where! why after that beautiful insect, darting along over the heather! Well! and did you catch it? No, the rascal could fly considerably faster than I could run with my feet hampered by the heather! Exactly so, the only way to catch that elegant and active insect is by standing still. What! standing still? Seriously! are you joking? Joking? no, never was more serious in my life. Just take up your position, net in hand, in the sunniest spot you can find among the heather, and standing still await their approach and 'bag' them. That is it. Good! four specimens in a very short time, taken by standing still. That is the only way you can surely capture the beautiful but rapid-flying *Anarta Myrtilli*, which would have led you a dance over the field again and again, and then have eluded your pursuit, simply because its habit is to fly rapidly and in the bright sunshine over the heather, hiding itself among the heather if the sun becomes cloudy, and re-appearing as soon as he shines again."

We have only further to commend to our Dublin readers the excursion to Howth in the month of July, and we here take leave of this little book, which will be eagerly devoured by many an incipient entomologist before the close of the season.

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*On Thursday, May the 15th, will  
be published, price 3s.,*

**JUNE:**

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY  
IN SUMMER TIME.

By H. T. STANTON.

London: Longman, Brown, Green and  
Longmans.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN,  
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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 6.]

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## WANTED, A FEW CUVIERS!

Now that entomologists are so rapidly increasing in number it is high time to bestir ourselves to eliminate from the mass of young students some who may hereafter render essential service to the onward progress of the Science. The first and indispensable requisite for a future CUVIER is *patience*; but, as we don't expect to find grey heads on young shoulders, we are more willing to expect that this qualification will be cultivated than that it will be found innate. All are not over-supplied with patience, but all may learn to increase their store. The second great requisite is *quickness*, and this, we fear, is more of a natural gift, and cannot be increased by cultivation to any very great extent, but we do not wish, on that account, to discourage those who feel that they are not quick: one of our greatest living entomologists said of himself, "I am so slow—I am like a snail!" yet, with this natural difficulty to contend with, he has accomplished more than many with greater advantages. But to those who know that they are quick—and what boy doesn't find this out for himself long before his masters make the discovery?—we would say, Be not inclined to boast of your quickness; make use of it, for it is given you to be *used*, but don't make it serve for purposes of display.

Now the incipient CUVIER who is *patient* and *quick* already possesses the germs of much future usefulness; but he must be *cautious*, he must not be rash, he must not jump to conclusions; and, further, he must be careful not to contract one-sided views,—he must remember that the criterion of a great mind is to be able to *grasp the entire of any subject*, whether the subject be large or small, so as to be able to view it on all sides. The mass of mischief which is caused by people dwelling upon isolated points, magnifying them to the exclusion of others, is enormous, and the occupation of one half of our thinkers and writers consists in exposing the fallacies of the other half. And every one who exalts unduly any point of the subject he is considering, compels, as it were in their own defence, others to unduly exalt the particular points to which they attach importance.

In order to keep the mind free from prejudice or one-sided views, it is necessary to examine and judge for one's self: we are very apt to conclude that because another says a thing is so, it *must* be so; it *may* be so, we grant, but look and judge for yourself, perhaps you will find it very different from what you expected.

If these remarks induce some of our younger readers to endeavour to grow into CUVIERS, we will be disposed to pardon a little vanity, provided their

attempts are successful. But we doubt much if the *real* CUVIERS thus eliminated will be disposed to vanity—vanity implying a love of self, not of the subject of study, and we don't wish to grow a few CUVIERS because CUVIER was a great man, but because he was of great use to Science.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Garduer, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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MR. STANTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

On these occasions MR. STANTON is happy to see any entomologist above 14 years of age (whether previously known to him or not), who may wish to look at his collection or consult him on any entomological matter.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. C., GLASGOW.—It would be premature to talk at present of a second edition

of the 'Insecta Britannica, Lepidoptera Tineina,' as the additions to be made to the volume are not yet very extensive, and it will be better to postpone a reprint for five or ten years longer. There must be many copies in the hands of subscribers who do not make use of them. All the information as to habits, localities and times of appearance will be found compressed into the second edition of the 'Entomologist's Companion' (John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row: price 3s.)

A. N., BRISTOL.—The larva of *Ennomos illustraria* feeds, according to Freyer, on oak and birch, sometimes it occurs on alder, and in captivity it will eat hazel and willow. It does not, therefore, appear to be very particular about its food.

E. G. C., BRIGHTON.—We should be very glad to receive a report of the proceedings of the proposed association; we cannot promise to print *in extenso*, but we will publish the pith of all reports of local Entomological Societies that reach us. *Miselia Aprilina* is a very common insect.

B. H. P.—We have no recommendable descriptive work of all the Coleoptera. If you read French, you would like Léon Fairnaire's 'Faune Entomologique Française:' see 'Entomologist's Annual,' 1856, p. 151.

A YOUTHFUL ENTOMOLOGIST.—The larvæ are those of *Bryophila perla*; they feed on the lichen that grows on old walls: you will find it noticed at p. 12 of 'Practical Hints.'

J. P. T.—*Cossus ligniperda* is generally collected in the larva state. We have always understood that the larva of *P. Machaon* would eat fennel.

W. L., CLERKENWELL.—LARVÆ on ivy between united leaves are most probably those of *Tortrix adjunctana* (*Forsterana*, we used to call it).

SETTING BOARDS.—We should be glad to hear of a shop in an accessible part of London, where serviceable setting-boards

could be obtained at a moderate price. There would be a large demand for them, as well as for other entomological apparatus.

I. J. R.—The larva of *Setina irrorella* feeds on various lichens. *Clisiocampa castrensis* is polyphagous; it has been found on the sea-wormwood. The cocoon sent is probably that of *Hypogymna dispar*.

E. S. N., EXETER, in our next.

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ERRATUM.—In No. 4, p. 31, second column, line 2, for "*E. sylvaria*" read *E. satyrata*.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

*Alencis pictaria*, &c.—On the evening of the 25th I took, on Dartford Heath, three more *pictaria*, two of them *in copulâ*; but since then the north-east wind has put a stop to all collecting by the net, and but few fresh things have made their appearance. In Darent Wood I have captured *Coecyx splendidulana*, *Elaehista Pfeifferella* and a few other common species. Many of the *Eupithecia* are now making their appearance; *E. coronaria* is in fine condition. I have seen two *Ennomos illustraria*, one taken on the 25th at a lamp at Erith, and one on the 28th at Darent Wood.—H. J. HARDING, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch; April 30, 1856.

*Noctua Larvæ*.—From the 16th of April to the present time (May 1st), Mr. Harpur Crewe, who has been staying with me, and I have taken upwards of 500 larvæ, principally *Noctuæ*, by searching with lanterns at night among the underwood. We were rather late for the willow blossoms, but took a few of *T. miniosa*, *gracilis*, *rubricosa*, &c., and one of *N. leucographa*. The day before yesterday

I found a male *Peridea trepida* on an oak tree outside the forest.—W. H. HAWKER, *Horndean, Hants*; May 1, 1856.

*Lists of British Lepidoptera*.—I have a number of lists for interchange among collectors of British Lepidoptera (excepting the Tineina). I shall be glad to send them, post free, for 1s. a dozen. The arrangement is that followed by Mr. H. Doubleday.—THOS. CHAPMAN; 56, Buchanan Street, Glasgow; April 29, 1856.

*Noctua flying by Day*.—I have observed *Hydræcia nietitans* flying in the sunshine in the pastures, settling on flower after flower, like a bee. This I have observed on both sides of the Frith of Clyde in different years. *Thecla Rubi* appeared in abundance last week along Loch Long and near Dunoon.—IBID.; May 5, 1856.

*Synia museulosa*.—Having seen in your 'Intelligencer' that this insect had been taken on Dinas Green, by Mr. Fletcher, of St. John's, Worcester, I beg to say that I have proved it to be *Nona-gria fulva*.—JOHN SMITH, *Turkey Street, Worcester*; May 5, 1856.

*Vanessa Antiopa*.—This spring, in the Isle of Wight, my sister, out walking, marked down an *Antiopa*. She was gone ten minutes, and on returning found him, motionless, in the same place. A tumbler and card, the only weapons at hand, with a little chloroform, closed the comedy. This is, I suppose, the only instance of *Antiopa* being taken under a tumbler. It is a good specimen. This spring *Eupithecia consignata* was taken in Suffolk. *Fuliginosa*, the first this year, was taken on the 23rd April, having come out to see the Review, of which he saw and heard much more than the House of Lords.—ALEX. WALLACE, 5, Green Terrace, Clerkenwell; May 3, 1856.

*Boarmia Consonaria*.—Walking through Wavendon Wood yesterday, I

took about a dozen fine specimens of *Boarmia Consonaria* on the trunks of large Scotch firs. I shall be happy to exchange this insect with any collector who may be in want of it; also *Lampropteryx Badiata*, which has been common this season. Having bred *Eupithecia succenturiata* from the sea-wormwood, and never having seen *Eupithecia subfulvata* in this neighbourhood, or any intermediate varieties, I shall feel unwilling to receive Mr. Gregson's opinion that they are referable to one species.—HENRY BURNEY, *Wavendon; May 2, 1856.*

*Larvæ of Eupitheciæ.*—I have known the larvæ of *Eupithecia Rectangulata* for many years, and it is figured by Rösèl (vol. i. pl. 8): it is green, with a pinkish dorsal line, and feeds on the buds and leaves of the apple in April and May. I am not aware that many of the *Eupithecia* larvæ are seed feeders; it is the usual habit of the *Emmclesiæ*, but not I believe of *Eupithecia*; *E. exigua* feeds on white thorn; *E. austerata* on privet, &c.; *E. Callunaria* on *Scabiosa succisa*; *E. Sobrinata* and another species which I propose to call *fuscaria*, on juniper; *E. indigata* on *Pinus sylvestris*; *E. centaureata* and *E. elongata* on *Senecio jacobææ*; and the pretty pink and white, and sometimes green and white larva of *E. nanata* is abundant on heather in September. I have been informed by Mr. A. Wilson that the larva of *E. minutata* feeds on the eurant, but I have not seen it, and some young larvæ produced from eggs of this species last summer refused to eat the cultivated species of *Ribes*.—R. F. LOGAN, *Duddingston, near Edinburgh; May 5, 1856.*

*Melitæa Athalia*; ("only in the south," according to the 'Manual'), is abundant in one locality in South Staffordshire. I shall be happy to send specimens to any entomologist who may think them worth applying for.—J. HARDY, 43, *Radnor Street, Hulme, Manchester; May 6, 1856.*

*Notodonta Carmelita.*—I took two fine females of this insect at rest on the trunks of birches, at West Wickham Wood on the 4th of May.—WILLIAM MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End; May 6, 1856.*

*Ennomos illustraria.*—I took two of the larva of this insect on the 22nd of July last year, about half fed; two larger ones were taken the same day by Mr. J. Standish, and bred by him in the following month: these Mr. Standish called *Sublunaria*, and considered them quite distinct from *illustraria*. My two larvæ kept feeding, though very slowly, till the end of September, when they changed to pupæ. Being fully convinced in my own mind that the two bred by Mr. Standish were from an early brood of *illustraria*, I determined in the autumn to try and procure a number of the larvæ, and endeavour to breed this insect from the egg in the spring. I succeeded in beating about five and twenty, several on the 12th September but a few days old. On the 18th March the first *illustraria* made its appearance, and twenty-one more shortly followed. I have now about one hundred of the young larvæ feeding, and some not yet hatched, and shall doubtless breed the variety *Sublunaria* (as it is now proved to be), but I fully expect many of them will lay over till next season. I have also bred *Ptilodontis palpina*, *Taniocampa munda*, and *Biston prodromaria*, from pupæ obtained by raking; and *Notodonta chaonia* and several *Ceropacha ridens* from larvæ by beating last season.—IBID.

*Captures of Lepidoptera.*—April 24th, ascended Engleborough, on the Lancashire side, behind Ingleton; when about half way up took the first *Eupisteria carbonaria* I ever saw alive! April 27th, near Cockermonth, I took *Taniocampa miniosa*, *Ceropacha ridens*, *Lithovolletis roboris*, &c. During the week I have bred several specimens of *Oenoserotoma pinivariella* from larvæ on Scotch fir, made

up in a slight web between two leaves. The larvæ of *Lasiocampa Trifolii* are now feeding on the sand-hills at Crosby and Wallasey.—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool; May 3, 1856.*

*Bupalus piniarius*.—I took two fine males of this insect yesterday: I never before saw the moth before the middle of June. In the 'Zoologist,' p. 5110, Mr. Stone complains of the absence of the female of this insect: if he will wait till the males are getting rather faded, and then throw stones into the higher branches of the firs, which the insects inhabit, he will probably dislodge quantities of the female. Till I tried the experiment I never found one female; after I had recourse to it, I have often taken a score or more in half an hour.—P. H. NEWNHAM, *Stoke Road; May 6, 1856.*

*Gelechia nigricostella*.—Yesterday I bred a specimen of this insect from a green larva found by Herr Schmid last September, feeding between united leaves of *Medicago sativa*.—H. T. STANTON; *May 7, 1856.*

by the singular whitish-puckered ease of the larva, with loose whitish flounces attached to it, compared by Réaumur to furbelows, and you will wonder how it happens that you never found it before. The plant grows freely, I believe, in some parts of Darent Wood, but wherever it grows it should be searched, and I entertain no doubt that, before the close of the month, several of my readers will have sent me this larva. The plant being rather a conspicuous one will not be easily overlooked where it does occur, and those who may not be deeply versed in Botany themselves may probably be able to get some botanical friend to point out to them the precise spot where the *Astragalus* is to be found.

There is another *Coleophora* on the same plant, which would also be an addition to our Fauna, *C. Astragalella*, of which the case, much resembling in form that of *C. anatipennella*, is readily recognised by its pale buff colour; but it is, I believe, rarely found in the spring, the larva attaining its maximum growth in the autumn.—H. T. STANTON; *May 5, 1856.*

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#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

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I wish now to call the attention of my readers to a species of *Coleophora* which has not yet been found in this country, but the discovery of which I hope to be able to announce before the close of the present month.

The insect to which I allude is *Coleophora serenella*: it feeds on the leaves of the wild liquorice or sweet milk-vetch (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), and makes very conspicuous, because very white, blotches in the elegant pinnate leaves of that plant; if you are looking for it, it is impossible to miss it, if it is there. On turning over the leaf which is blotched you will know at once that you have got the genuine article, and that it is "all serene,"

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#### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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*Monday, May 5th, 1856.* — W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., President, in the chair.

The President announced that, at the last meeting of the Entomological Society of France, their late President, Mr. Curtis, had been elected an Honorary Member of that Society.

PETASIA NUBECULOSA.—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited the specimen of this insect sent him by Mr. Foxcroft (already noticed in our third number at p. 24), and read a letter from Mr. Foxcroft explaining the mode in which this and other specimens had been captured. The plan was as follows:—the insects were found at rest high up the trunks of the

*birches*; in the woods at Rannoch the little creeper was always busily employed running up and down the trees looking for insects, and when the creeper came to so large an insect as a *nubeculosa*, it appeared to be rather frightened, flapping its wings and giving a sort of scream. Mr. Foxcroft then made a noise by beating the tree with a long stick, and the bird flew away, and then Mr. Foxcroft proceeded to climb the tree in search of the *Petasia*; by this means he had already collected nearly one for each of his subscribers. On one occasion, after climbing a birch tree to a height of 40 feet, he found it a false alarm, as the insect which had attracted the attention of the bird was only *Ceropacha flavicornis*!

ALEUCIS PICTARIA. — Mr. S. Stevens exhibited a very fine specimen of this insect he had taken at Dartford Heath.

HETERIUS QUADRATUS. — Mr. Janson exhibited three specimens of this, a new British beetle; he had taken them in ants' nests at Hampstead; the first a few years ago in a nest of *Formica flava*, the other two on the preceding day in a nest of *F. fusca*. Mr. Janson said his mode of proceeding was not to disturb the ants at all, but to place large stones in the vicinity of their nests, and to examine these from time to time.

HEMEROBIUS VARIEGATUS. — Mr. Newman sent for exhibition a specimen of this insect, bred by Mr. Dorville from a cocoon formed within the pupa-skin of an *Abraxas grossulariata*.

ELACHISTA TENIATELLA. — Mr. Stainton exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Scott, the specimen the latter gentleman had bred (see 'Intelligencer,' No. 5, p. 37) of this new British species.

COLEOPHORA WOCKEELLA. — Mr. Bond exhibited specimens of the larva of this hitherto rare species, feeding on *Betonica officinalis*, found in a wood near Canterbury.

DRAWINGS OF LEPIDOPTEROUS LARVÆ. — Captain Cox exhibited a fine series of

drawings of larvæ, executed by himself and Mrs. Cox, and said that, when they should have figured a considerable number, he had eventually in view their publication. As good trustworthy figures of our larvæ are much wanted, this announcement caused much gratification to the Members present.

The following papers were then read: — "Description of a Species of *Necrodes* from Borneo," by Mr. Adam White; "Account of a Spider observed on the Baobab tree by Dr. Reichardt," translated from Guérin-Ménéville's 'Revue Zoologique,' by Mr. J. W. Douglas; and Mr. Smith read a paper "On the Difficulties attending the Discrimination of the Species of the Genus *Stylops*:" in this paper Mr. Smith remarked that the appearance of a male *Stylops* was so altered by its shrivelling after death, that a cabinet specimen bore about as much resemblance to a living insect as a dried mummy did to a well-fed, plump Egyptian, and hence most of the published figures were not representations of the insects intended, but miserable caricatures. Mr. Smith then called attention to four different species (as they had been called) of *Stylops*, but which he was inclined to think were identical, and begged that any one meeting with a *Stylops* in future would at once make an accurate drawing of the living insect, in order to ascertain whether we really had more than one species of *Stylops* in this country.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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#### EPHESTIA FICELLA PETITIONS TO BE NATURALIZED.

To the Right Honourable Corporation of the Entomologists of Great Britain:

The petition of *Ephestia Ficella* Humbly sheweth—

That having been for many years an inhabitant of Great Britain, and being



fully determined never to depart, your petitioner humbly craveth to be naturalized. Nor should it be objected that your petitioner liveth in-doors, for so also doth *V-flava*; nor that he hath travelled hither within the memory of man, for so also have *Pseudospretella* and *Cerealella*; nor that he is a great nuisance, for so are many of his friends and relations.

Your petitioner therefore humbly craveth to have his name added to the British list.

And your petitioner will ever prey—upon figs.

(Signed) EPHESTIA FICELLA.

DOES THE SPIDER EAT ITS OWN WEB?—Rennie, in his 'Insect Architecture,' asserts that the common garden spider does *not* eat its own web. A close observation has convinced me that it does. After cutting a web, so that it hung only by a thread, the spider came out, gathered the whole up, soaked it with the glutinous liquid from its mouth, carried it to its den corner, and then, opening its jaws, took the entire ball in. The thought, however, struck me, was the mass conveyed into the proper stomach of the insect, or into some cavity whence it might be reproduced through the spinnerets? I should feel much obliged if you could answer this question, for I can assert that the web *was* swallowed.—*Notes and Queries.*

POSTAL GUIDE.—In the 'Entomologist's Annual for 1856,' we called attention to the extreme desirability of a Post-Office Bradshaw: this is now announced "as in a forward state, and will speedily be published." To those of our readers who have much correspondence with foreign entomologists we have no doubt this information will be highly acceptable.

CAUTION TO HASTY WRITERS.—Between seven and eight thousand letters

were posted last year without any address.

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NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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THE ZOOLOGIST for May. (*A Popular Monthly Magazine of Natural History*). Price 1s. John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row.

"Protection was the bane of agriculture;" and, believing this, we joined the Anti-Corn-Law League in 1843, and had the pleasure of assisting in removing the "bane." Since then we have always held that competition was a good thing,—good for all parties, good for the public, good for those competing.

When we first announced the 'Intelligencer' there were timid croakers who said, What will the 'Zoologist' do?—surely it will "go squash." We entertained no such fears: we were satisfied that if there were an increase in the number of entomologists, and of energy in the existing entomologists, the 'Zoologist' would have an increased number of readers, and would receive an additional number of well-written articles. The present number fully justifies our expectations: it is capital. The forty pages of matter are still kept up. We have an unusual amount of entomological information, as the following brief analysis will show:—The Rev. Joseph Greene notices the adaptation of the colour of the moths which appear in autumn to the golden and rich brown tints of the woods at that period. Mr. Wailes notices, among other things, the large flat blotch-maker of the bramble-leaves, which is Hymenopterous, and has produced him *Fenusa pumila*. Mr. Parfitt has a very able communication on the subject of the hard oak-gall from Devonshire. Mr. Scott calls attention to the difficulty of knowing whose arrangement of Lepidoptera to follow,

whether Mr. Stephens', Mr. Doubleday's or Mr. Stainton's is to be *the* list. Perhaps, before deciding this knotty point, it would be well to wait till a second edition (which is now imperatively called for) of Mr. Doubleday's list appears, as we believe it will strike out a new mode of arrangement, and thereby give the puzzled ones a further choice. Mr. Miller has a capital notice about the tendency of entomologists always to hunt in particular established localities, instead of working out new localities for themselves. Mr. Boyd, in the inquiry, "What is Indigenous?" ably treats the subject which served as the leading article of our fourth number. Mr. Buxton is eloquent on the bad habit entomologists have of only believing the rarities in their own collections to be indigenous. These, with other smaller notices, make a *pot-pourri* of entomological entertainment, which no intelligent entomologist would willingly be without.

#### PICTURES OF NATURE ROUND MALVERN.

By EDWIN LEES, F.L.S. D. Bogue, London; H. W. Lamb, Royal Library, Malvern.

For all the dwellers in and around Malvern this *is* a jolly book. We feel quite tempted to pack up our carpet-bag and start off for the localities so graphically described in the volume before us. Descriptions of scenery, Geology, Botany and *Entomology*, have each their turn. We presume all our Worcester-shire readers are already possessed of this book; but if any have not yet got it we can but strongly advise them immediately to procure it. The following sentence, at p. 70, has great interest for us:—"Under the trees we gathered mountain St. John's-wood (*Hypericum montanum*), which I have only found along the whole chain of hills in this one locality." It was on this plant that Senator Von

Heyden discovered the larva of *Cemistoma lustratella*, that little beauty allied to *scitella*, which we have yet to find in this country. At p. 115 a locality is given for the great liquorice vetch (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), on which we have very little doubt that the larvæ of *Colco-phora serenella* are at this moment feeding.

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### Completion of the Butterflies.

Now ready, price 3d. (or post free 4d.),  
No. 3 of

A MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS. By H. T. STAINTON, Editor of 'The Entomologist's Annual.'

London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row, and to be had of all Booksellers and News Agents.

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TO ADVERTISERS. — Advertisements for insertion in the JUNE NUMBER of the 'MANUAL,' should be sent to E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street, not later than the 15th inst.

On Thursday, May the 15th, will be published, price 3s.,

### JUNE:

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY IN SUMMER TIME.

By H. T. STAINTON.

London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, May 10, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 7.]

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## THE PRIZE ESSAY.

As noticed in our columns (No. 2, p. 13, and No. 3, p. 23), the subject selected for the Prize Essay of the Entomological Society is the elucidation of the habits and history of *Gelechia terrella*. The amount of the Prize, £5, is sufficient to show that the labour expended on the subject will not be all thrown away, and is, at the same time, not high enough to lead any one to take up the elucidation of Prize Essays as a means of a livelihood, an object, by-the-by, for which they were not intended.

We believe that the larva of *Gelechia terrella* is not altogether pleased at having a price set upon its head; indeed, if it resembles many of its congeners, we should not be at all surprised to hear that when discovered in its retreat it appeared greatly agitated, and shook its head about in a most distressingly tremulous manner. Every entomologist probably has a notion where the larva of *Gelechia terrella* ought to live, only somehow or other nobody can find it. No doubt it feeds on grass, says one: Fischer has proved it, says another; but still, in spite of assertion and proof (for Fischer's larva we now know to be that of *Gelechia*

*rufescens*), no one finds it on grass. How silly you are! exclaims a third, don't you know it feeds in moss? But still he can't show us the larva. The moth we know swarms pretty well everywhere, at any rate wherever there is grass; it is by hundreds in every meadow, and by scores on the chalk downs, and so common is it that it is often found at sugar, though it is not every *Gelechia* that is attracted by that bait. May not the larva feed on some seed like *Gelechia Malvella*? The perfect insects have a family resemblance; may not the larvæ have kindred tastes? We just throw this out to show how easy it is to start a new idea, very far from the previously half-accepted notions, and if a seed-feeder it must feed in autumn, whereas, if a grass or moss-feeder, it probably feeds in spring. The early specimens are probably already in pupæ; but as we know the insect keeps coming out for some time, there are, in all probability, many a score of fine full-fed larvæ, if we could only find out where to look for them. Whether the insects exercise a prejudicial influence on grasslands is a matter which can only be ascertained after the economy of the insect is discovered: a species that is *so abundant* can hardly be altogether innocuous, or even if it should prove to be so it would at any rate be satisfactory to ascertain the fact.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

MR. STANTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

On these occasions MR. STANTON is happy to see any entomologist above 14 years of age (whether previously known to him or not), who may wish to look at his collection or consult him on any entomological matter.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. S., BIRMINGHAM.—There is no cheap complete work on the foreign Lepidoptera. June and September are the principal months for caterpillars. You cannot tell till you have dug whether there are pupæ at the root of a tree. We have no agent at Birmingham; those who want the 'Intelligencer' at once have it sent direct by post; all for this season, after this date, will be sent on receipt of 4s. in postage stamps.

J. B., SLEIGHT'S BRIDGE.—Your larvæ are all common that in the *Hypericum* shoots is *Catoptria Hypericana*.

S. R. M., ISLE OF MAN.—We had no idea we had any readers in the Isle of Man. You want to know if you are the sole representative of entomologists in the island: if we have any other Manx reader perhaps he will communicate with us. The island has been very little worked entomologically, but if you keep your eyes open you may do something towards it yourself.

R. W., WESTWARD.—Your beetle (?) got squashed in the post; it appears to have been one of the Hemiptera or bugs.

R. G., CHELTENHAM.—The common centipede (*Scolopendra vulgaris*).

E. P. T.—The larva of *Sphinx Convoluti* feeds principally upon the small bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*); it is green or brown: see description in No. 4 of the 'Manual of British Butterflies and Moths.' There is no harm in looking for it; it is, however, very rarely found in this country.

G. G., N.—Received with thanks.

W. R., ROTHERHAM.—Name shall appear as requested.

J. J. R., PLYMOUTH.—The insect sent is *Tischeria marginata*; a larva of *Trifolii* for description will oblige.

J. P. T.—The larva of *Saturnia Carpini* feeds on a variety of plants, heath, hawthorn, strawberry, &c., &c. *Potatoria* remains a pupa about a month.

GREENHORN.—Wait till you see how many applications you are likely to have; supposing you have twelve letters applying for any rarity you have captured, put aside the first three, and supply the other nine before you pay any attention to them. The three first applications will, in all probability, be from greedy entomologists who take all they can get and give as little as they can.

P. V., HAMPSTEAD.—It is the second edition of the 'Entomologist's Annual' for 1855 that contains the instructions

for collecting and preserving insects. It is on sale at Van Voorst's, Paternoster Row, price half-a-crown.

ERRATA.—In No. 5, p. 35, first column, line 34, the words *Polia Herbida* are omitted; it should read "I had a lot of eggs from a female *Polia Herbida* last July." Owing to this omission the following sentence reads as applying to *H. silaceata*.

In No. 6, p. 43, second column, ten lines from bottom, for "this spring *Eupithecia consignata* was taken," read "three years ago a single specimen of *E. consignata* was taken."

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Dragon-flies near Exeter.* — I have taken the following species in this neighbourhood, and think I can procure them for any collector who may be in want of all or any of them: it is much easier to forward the perfect insects alive than when set.

*Libellula quadrimaculata*,

„ *depressa*,

„ *cæruleseens*,

„ *vulgata*,

*Corduligaster annulatus*,

*Æschia pratensis*,

„ *eyanea*,

*Calepteryx virgo*,

„ *splendens*,

*Lestes viridis*, and

*Agriion elegans*.

I keep few or rather no duplicates, for I would much rather sit on the bank and watch them hovering over the stream, and then darting to seize some passing butterfly or moth, than to have them in goodly rows, like strings of onions, in my collection, perhaps a prey to mites. Therefore, if any entomologist wants any, let him write to me to that effect, and if

procurable he shall have it before the season is over, otherwise the duplicate of even the rarest moths will

“Be as free to live, and to enjoy that life

As God was free to form them at the first.”

—E. T. NORCOMBE, 5, *Salutary Mount, Heavitree, Exeter*; May 6, 1856.

*Captures at Darenth Wood.*—May 1st, *Ennomos illustraria*. May 3rd, *Cloantha conspicularis*. The frosty nights kill many of the insects that have emerged from the pupa during the day: I have seen them lying dead under the sprigs that they were on the evening before. I have never previously observed this. May it not account for the rarity of some species at different periods? — H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch*; May 7, 1856.

*Grapholitha Corollana.*—I do not find this given as British, and yet I certainly think it must occur with you, since you have the aspen (*Populus tremula*) and *Saperda populnea*. Where the aspen has knobs on the twigs, an indication of the whereabouts of the *Saperda* larva, you will probably find some projecting heaps of “frass;” if so, the larva or pupa of *Grapholitha corollana* may be found within.—P. C. ZELLER, *Gross Glogau*; May 5, 1856.

*Depressaria Alstræmeriana* (see No. 3, p. 19).—This flies among sloe-bushes for the same reason that *Applana* flies amongst all sorts of bushes, because its food-plant grows below them.—IBID.

*Chrysophanus dispar* in *Staffordshire*.—This sounds at present not unlike capturing it five miles from anywhere. Perhaps Mr. Weaver will be kind enough to favour us with the part of *Staffordshire*, or the place therein where it was taken, and which evidently, in his earnestness to make public this valuable discovery, he has overlooked.—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton*; May 6, 1856.

*Harmonies between Plants and Insects.*—The observation you make in your very useful ‘Intelligencer’ as to the insects

attached to the mountain St. John's-wort (*Hypericum montanum*) and liquorice-vetch (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*) suggests the advantage of studying the harmonies between plants and insects. I never knew a spot good for rare plants but what was also sure to produce a quota of good insects too, if carefully searched for. Entomologists would therefore do well to have a general knowledge of plants, at least as far as genera are concerned, for I have often found it difficult to get an entomological collector to give me a sufficient account of a plant, which, from his scanty vegetable knowledge, he fancied was very rare. Perhaps on a tour a botanist and an entomologist might be mutually useful to each other, and certainly a local Flora, with the habitats of rare plants given, would be found very useful to a wandering insect-catcher. Sometimes, in a secluded spot, a rare plant in flower tempts insects to settle upon it that might otherwise be wearily trudged after. I remember a beautiful sight in the summer of last year on Worle Hill, Somerset, where a fine group of the exceedingly rare field Eryngium (*E. campestre*) had its curious spinous flowers adorned by the exquisite little Chalk-hill Blue (*Polyommatus Corydon*) settled upon them, and I could not find this rare butterfly anywhere on the hill; its fine perception had brought it to the flowering Eryngium, and that in such a secluded thicket and broken-stone surrounded spot that none but a poking naturalist could have penetrated to. With regard to the *Hypericum montanum*, if any entomologist wants to make a harvest out of that, let him go in June to Brean Down, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, where, among the rocks of that peninsula, the plant grows in greater abundance than I have ever seen it elsewhere. In May and June also the rocks of Brean Down are covered with the rare white-flowered cistus (*Helianthemum polifolium*), but only on the southern side: and those

sunny slopes, abounding also with the blue-flowered Iris (*Iris fetidissima*) and thickets of dwarf privet, would, I will venture to say, amply reward the research of any skillful entomologist who had the opportunity to make a day of exploration there.—EDWIN LEES, *Heurick, Worcester*; May 11, 1856.

*Duplicate Luperina connexa*.—Having a few specimens left, which may be useful to some of your southern readers, I shall be happy to supply any applicants as long as my stock holds out.—WILLIAM LAYCOCK, 154, *Bath Street, Sheffield*; May 13, 1856.

*Lasiocampa Trifolii*.—I shall be happy to forward this larva to any one in want of it.—J. J. READING, 42, *Gibbons Street, Plymouth*; May 13, 1856.

*Opatrum sabulosum*.—Any Coleopterist wanting this insect to complete his series can have it on application.—IND.

*Lepidoptera in Devon*.—I took *Harpalyce ocellata* at Teignmouth yesterday. *Melanthia rivata* is now to be taken: let those who want it write; it may be scarce in some places, for *Alechmillata* (the Common Carpet) I have never met with here. I should be very glad to receive a pair of *Harpalyce galiata*, if any one has it on hand. *Leucophasia Sinapis* will soon be out: does any one want it?—E. S. NORCOMBE, 5, *Salutary Mount, Heavitree, Exeter*; May 13, 1856.

*Drepana unguicula*.—I am now taking this in a beech wood near Bristol.—J. BOLT, *Broad Street, Bristol*; May 13, 1856.

*Four Hours' Collecting at Windermere*.—On Whit-Monday Mr. W. Ashworth and I availed ourselves of a cheap trip to this delightful place. It being rather early for many species of Lepidoptera, we did not expect to meet with much; however, it appeared that both vegetation and insects were at least a fortnight earlier there than here, some fifty miles further South. We met with *Leucophasia Sinapis*, *Thecla Rubi*, *Eurymene dolabraria*, *Tr-*

*phrosia consonaria*, *Bapta taminaria*, *Eriopsela quadrana*, *Capua ochraceana*, &c.

On the 11th I met with a fine *Cucullia Chamomilla* on a post at Lytham: I also found there forty larvæ of *Dasycheira fascelina*.

In April I took a specimen of *Oleracea* on sallows along with *Leucographa*.—J. B. HODGKINSON, 41, *St. Peter's Street, Preston*; May 13, 1856.

#### MEMORABILIA FOR MAY.

LEPIDOPTERA.—Now palings begin to be resorted to by those in want of the various species of *Mamestra* and *Hadena*. *Thalassina*, *genista* and *contigua* are much thought of by those of our junior readers who have not hitherto met with them. Among broom *Chesias obliquaria* may be found. *Melitæa Euphrosyne* will be found in woods, and *Sesia fuciformis* and *bombyliformis* may be noticed in meadows near woods, and in open places where woods have been thinned; they are very partial to the flowers of the common bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). On the chalk downs several of the little *Pyraustæ* are already on the wing. *Venilia maculata* is now sportive in the woods in the South; and among heath you may observe the dull-coloured *Lozogramma petraria*. By sweeping grass-fields with a sweeping-net larvæ of the *Satyridi* may often be obtained: they are at once known by the short forked tail. The larva of *Gastropacha quercifolia* is now full fed, and may be met with in many localities in the South. [We should be glad to receive a specimen of this larva for description for the 'Manual.'] Among the *Tortricina* the great mass of species are now in the larva state: our plum and pear trees, our rose and lilac bushes, have their leaves rolled up by the larvæ of the species of the genera *Tortrix*, *Pentheria* and *Spilmota*. The

polyphagous pests *Sciaphila subjectana* and *virgaureana* may be found on almost every plant that grows in our fields and hedges: the baby-larvæ of these species feed beneath the cuticle, and pass themselves off with the uninitiated as new sorts of mining larvæ.

COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—*Calathus mollis* is said to be abundant in sandy commons near the coast, and it would seem there only, for it has never come across my path, nor, as far as I know, any of the London collectors. Mr. Dawson does not mention the months of its occurrence, but Stephens says February to June. *Calathus nubigena*, Hal., one of the latest additions to our native species, was taken by Mr. Haliday on the mountains of Wicklow among the piled-up stones, early in the summer, *but later in the season was not to be found*. Will some of our Irish friends bear this in mind? *Agonum 6-punctatum*, a most brilliant coppery creature, may now be seen running on marshy ground: I have taken it on Putney Heath and Woking Common. *A. fulgens* is taken "early in the spring" on the northern moors: it is a fine species, and last year a good many were found in Scotland. Unless our northeru friends are more fortunate in their weather than we are in the South, as our early spring has not yet commenced, it may not be too late for them to look for this beetle. *Amara strenua* is found hitherto only in marshes near Ryde, Isle of Wight, early in the spring. *Amara consularis* occurs in "May at Holme Fen under pieces of turf, and at Trevor Park, near Farnham, under refuse left in turnip-fields." I fear the *Amaræ* are very much neglected in consequence of being so much alike, and these notes may serve to remind some of our friends that they are not all common. Mr. Dawson tells us that *Stenolophus elegans* was taken by the Rev. H. Clark between Sheerness and Queenborough in May, 1853, but only two specimens. S.

*consputus* taken in May on the banks of a stream in Herringstone Marsh, near Dorchester. *H. dorsalis* in Holme Fen in May, and *H. flavicollis* in marshy ground near Shanklin. The *Bembidia* now begin to be active, and some are to be seen everywhere, both in dry and wet places, but others are not so fond of showing themselves, and from their retiring habits and small size are very liable to be overlooked. It is not improbable that there are some more species of this family to be added to our native list, and if we could only put *some* of our collectors on the search they must be found.—J. W. D.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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##### SALE OF THE COLLECTION OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of the 'Entomologist's Weekly  
Intelligencer.'*

SIR,—Some time since the Entomological Society decided that they would sell all their foreign insects; and I have since looked anxiously for a notice of the sale, but none having appeared, may I venture to hope that the subject is to be reconsidered?

The whole affair appears one of the most extraordinary that has ever come to my knowledge, nor can I think it would have passed so quietly had it been fully made known to the members. The Society, which prides itself on embracing the insect economy of the whole world, refuses to keep any but pen and ink sketches of foreign insects. It advises its members to collect when they go abroad, and then sells the insects they send!

Just suppose an instance: a person comes from abroad, attends a meeting of the Society, and gives some information concerning some peculiar insects, he is thanked by the Society; he reads a

paper, the Society is much obliged, and will print it; he has drawings to illustrate the subject, the Society is still more obliged, and will have a plate engraved on purpose; he presents some typical insects—ahem! (aside), they will do well to buy that new *Noctua*!

Then again look at the disrespect to those who have left their collections to the Society; the loss to science by the scattering of typical insects; the deterioration of the value of papers in the transactions by the absence of the specimens referred to; and the whole business seems a most extraordinary mode of promoting the science of Entomology.

And what are the reasons assigned for the proceeding? First, there is want of cabinet room: this very much arises from a total misconception of the object of a Society's collection. When a private individual begins to collect, his first object is generally to get something to look pretty, and then to make it unique by crowding into it as many varieties as he can get, and consequently he is obliged to add cabinet to cabinet. But what has a Society to do with all that? Nothing. The object of a public collection is very much that of a book of reference; and if we find there a pair of any insect, with any strongly marked varieties, especially such as have been named, we have all we want: and if the Society's collection were treated in this way, the arranged part would take less than a quarter of the room it now occupies, and the duplicate rarities, which might well be sold, would go far to fill up the empty spaces.

The next objection is the expense of keeping in order. This has been very much exaggerated, because there have been no data to go upon: it never has been kept in order. What has been done, has been by fits and starts, and there has been no regular periodical inspection, and I venture to say that if this were done, £5 a year, with the small



amount of gratuitous scientific assistance which might always be obtained, would keep in order a collection twice as large as that now existing.

Then some object that it will be years before some of the insects are of any use. Why! what is the use of a public library or a public collection, if not that of its being permanent, not liable to be broken up by the death of an individual, but something to which every one may contribute his mite, and leave it improved for the next generation.

Hoping the Society will reconsider the matter before they commit such an offence against the memory of former benefactors, and the feelings of present ones, the interests of science and common politeness,

I remain, yours &c.,

M. E. S.

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To the Editor of the 'Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer.'

SIR,—May I be allowed to suggest a way of obtaining recruits to the entomological ranks, to which recourse has been had in this district? it is for the gardening and horticultural societies, which are so common, to include, in their lists of prizes, one or two for collections of insects made in such localities during the season: it may be for the best collection of butterflies and moths, or for the best collection illustrative of the history of moths, or any other department of Entomology which may be thought most likely to bring out competitors.

Those who are not entomologists may say, We know and care nothing about insects; but let a member of the society who does, and who wishes others to do so, offer a small prize, such as your own 'Manual,' or some similar work, according as he can afford, and on the day of competition, which will be that of the principal annual show which all such societies have, the public might be interested and instructed by some gentleman

calling attention to the insects, and giving half-an-hour's lecture upon them; and if the lecture were well given, the greater number of the audience would say, "Well! but really insects are worth looking after;" and it is to be hoped that a number would be set to the looking after them.

Your's truly,

T. B. G.

Thornhill, Dumfriesshire;

May 12, 1856.

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#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

As it is about the time of the year that the larvæ of several of the *Cerostomæ* are to be found, I beg to intimate that I shall be very glad to receive larvæ of *sequella*, *vittella*, *radiatella*, *scabrella* or *nemorella*.

The larvæ of *Gelechia lentiginosella*, *sororeulella*, *Artemisiella*, *rhombella*, *Anarsia Spartiella*, *Gracilaria Ononidis*, *Coriscium Brongniardellum*, and *Batrachedra præangusta*, would also be very acceptable.—H. T. STAINTON; May 12, 1856.

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#### OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of eighty-six, of Dr. ZINCKEN, well known as the author of elaborate Monographs of *Chilo* and *Phycis* in 'Illiger's Magazine.'

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

JUNE; a Book for the Country in Summer Time. Price 3s. Longman & Co.

This is *not* an entomological work; but unless we are much mistaken it is

just the sort of book every entomologist would wish to see widely circulated.

The object of it "is to show how much the pleasures of country life may be increased by some acquaintance with the various forms of animal and vegetable life with which we are surrounded."

The first chapter treats of an English June in general; this is followed by June in Scotland; June at the Lakes; June in Devonshire; June in Sussex; and June in the neighbourhood of London.

"If the whole of human life were like a fine English day in June, we should cease to wish for 'another and a better world.'"

**IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK POST.**—There are good grounds for the opinion that by far the larger portion of the book-parcels which the Post Office carries would not be sent at all but for the peculiar facilities offered by the extensive organization of the Post Office, contrasted with which the facilities which railway companies can of themselves afford, sink into insignificance. When it is recollected that there are about 10,500 Post Offices scattered throughout the united kingdom, that there is scarcely a village without a Post Office, and scarcely even a hamlet without a regularly established official means of communication with a Post Office, and that consequently persons, even in the most secluded districts, can communicate by Post with all parts of the kingdom with tolerable certainty, and with very little trouble or expense, it will readily be seen that such facilities as these must lead to the transmission of books and documents which otherwise would never be sent. Mr. Charles Knight, the eminent publisher, says that the ease in which books are sent by Post may be nearly all considered as exceptional cases to the ordinary commercial operations of

publishing.—*Second Annual Report of the Post Office.*

### Completion of the Butterflies.

Now ready, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, price 3d. each, of

**A MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS.**  
By H. T. STAINTON, Editor of 'The Entomologist's Annual.'

*N.B. The Third Thousand of Nos. 1 & 2 is now selling.*

London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row, and to be had of all Booksellers and News Agents.

*On the 1st of June will be published, price 5s. crown 8vo, in cloth,*

**A PLEA FOR SPECIFIC VARIATION IN THE INSECTA;**  
with Notes on the Generic Theory. By T. VERNON WOLLASTON, M.A., F.L.S.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

*Just out, price 3s.,*

### JUNE:

**A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY IN SUMMER TIME.**

By H. T. STAINTON.

London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans.

Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, May 17, 1896.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 8.]

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## ENGLISH NAMES.

ONCE upon a time there was a little boy; this little boy was not a very good little boy, and when they did not give him anything he wanted he began to cry. His mamma did not like to see or hear him cry; so that, as soon as he began to cry, she gave him whatever it was that he wanted. One night, as he was going to bed, the maid had not put the shutters to, and the moon shone in very brightly, and this little boy saw the reflection of the moon in a pail of water; he was so pleased that he wanted to have the moon in his hands to play with, and so he told Mary to give him the moon out of the pail of water. Now Mary knew that the little boy was rather spoilt, so she told him he could not have the moon out of the pail: thereon the good little boy began to cry, and made so much noise that his mamma came up stairs to see what was the matter, and asking him what he was crying for, he said, pouting and whining, "Because Mary won't give me what I want." Then the mamma began to scold Mary for teasing her dear boy, by not giving him what he wanted; so Mary explained that that would be rather difficult, as the young gentleman was crying for the moon which he saw in the pail

of water. So when the mamma heard this, she laughed heartily at the absurdity of the thing, and she told her son that he could not always have everything that he wanted; and, though he thought it very strange at first, he dried his eyes, and was a better boy in future.

Now, there are some little boys who want to have English names for every one of our insects; but, you see, we have several thousand sorts of insects in this country, and most of these go by no other name in ordinary conversation than *a* moth, *a* bee, *a* beetle; there are others which are generally known by particular names, as *the* Tiger-moth, *the* Willow-bee, *the* Stag-beetle; but all the species have had scientific names given them, but these are in Latin, and many persons fancy it is very difficult to remember a Latin name, and some writers have pandered to a vulgar error by coining English names, generally merely translations of the Latin names, and these are sometimes very long and stupid; thus we have seen in print the names of two moths, one called the Bright-line Brown-eye, the other the Brown-line Bright-eye: this is sad gibberish, and must be very apt to puzzle simple people. Many insects are so much alike that one needs to be a tolerably skilled Entomologist in order to tell them apart, and the person who is clever enough to know one from the

other is clever enough to talk of them by the Latin names; and, mind you, if he don't learn to call them by the Latin names, he will find great difficulty in making himself understood, as the great majority of our entomologists don't know them by any other. Those who were to learn the English names of every moth would find that they would *afterwards* have to learn the Latin names, and they would thus give themselves a deal of unnecessary trouble.

In the 'Manual of British Butterflies and Moths' the English names are given for all those species which have generally received English names, such as the Brimstone Butterfly and the Peacock, but for those that have only made-up names, and of which you never meet with any one that uses them, no English names are given.

The moon is not fetched out of the pail of water; does the little boy still cry for it?

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 3s. 10d. in postage stamps.

*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

MR. STANTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

On these occasions MR. STANTON is happy to see any entomologist above 14 years' of age (whether previously known to him or not), who may wish to look at his collection or consult him on any entomological matter.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. O. W., CHESTER, enquires whether any *Nonagria* larva feeds inside the stem of the common *Sparganium*? Can any of our readers assist to answer this question? *Nonagria Sparganii* (L.E.P.), is not known as a British species.

F. M., BIRMINGHAM.—Your beetle is *Cicindela campestris*: it is very common. *Hera* (L.E.P.), is a 'thing hoped for;' it is not yet an acknowledged British species; it is quite distinct from the common *Dominula*. A variety of *Convolvuli* (L.E.P.) occurs sometimes as that you mention.

W. C., HOLME.—We fear we cannot advise you as to the prices of insects. Our own rule is never to buy, so that we have no experience to guide us in the matter.

A FEMALE.—Until a female will make herself known her communication must remain unnoticed. Among our many valuable correspondents may be reckoned several eminent lady entomologists (who have furnished us with several useful

hints), but it is not necessary that we should advertise their names and addresses, unless they wish it.

C. D. S.—Your larva is the Drinker (*Odonestis potatoaria*); it feeds on grass, and is very common. In writing to an entomologist who has advertised that he has specimens in duplicate, it is not customary to send postage-stamps, but if you are unable to return him any insects he wants, when you return him his box it may be courteous to enclose postage-stamps for the amount he has expended in sending insects to you.

B. W. P.—Your larvæ are, no doubt, those of *Coleophora lineolea* feeding on *Ballota nigra* (Black Horehound). For an account of the peculiar mode of feeding of that genus of *Tineina* see 'Entomologist's Companion,' Second Edition, p. 61.

F. M., BIRMINGHAM.—There are no lists, at present, printed on one side only for labelling, those of Mr. Doubleday being now all sold. You will find a list of the butterflies stitched up in No. 2 of the 'Manual;' this is not intended as part of the work, but to be used for labelling collections. Mr. Gosse's 'Marine Aquarium,' Van Voorst, price 2s. 6d., will probably assist you. For setting Lepidoptera see instructions in 'Entomologist's Annual,' 1855, Second Edition; for relaxing them place them on moist sand, in a tight vessel, and leave them for twelve or twenty-four hours.

J. B., WISBECH.—We intend to publish a list of additional entomologists in next year's 'Annual.' We have already fifty new correspondents since the publication of No. 1 of the 'Intelligencer;' any names you can send us at the close of the season will be useful. *D. Pinastri* is now considered common. Feed the young larvæ with their proper food, for though it may be assumed that the parent moth only lays the eggs on what the larvæ will eat, those eggs which are laid in a pill-box will not produce larvæ

that will thrive upon the lining. *Cold* laurel-leaves are active enough.

S. B.—*S. Libatrix* hibernates.

F. G.—You will be turned out of Coombe Wood if you go there without an order; we do not know how an order is to be obtained; perhaps some of our readers can enlighten us in this respect.

W. P., JUNR.—We sent your gnats to Mr. F. Walker, who writes it "is *Chironomus pedellus*"; it is generally distributed, and occurs in great abundance at this season when the weather is rainy."

MATTHEW enquires what has become of the Entomological Club? and whether it is defunct or not? We believe it to be in a very decrepit, semi-torpid state,

"It eats and drinks and sleeps; what then?  
It sleeps and drinks and eats again."

It will probably be heard of at Birch Wood in the summer; and rumour says it will be *marshalled* this week, not far from the Royal Exchange.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Polyommatus Argiolus* (LEP.).—Immense quantities of this insect were taken in Sutton Park on the 11th inst. One of my entomological friends, who arrived rather late in the day, took upwards of sixty specimens.—F. MEYER, Birmingham; May 13, 1856.

*Cedestis farinatella* (LEP. TIN.).—The fir miners I had met with here prove to be this species, instead of *C. Piniariella* as expected.—T. WILKINSON, Scarborough; May 15, 1856.

*Unknown Lepidopterous larva*.—In burrows beneath the bark of young oak trees, a correspondent of the 'Gardener's Chronicle,' has found the caterpillars of a small species of moth. What can this be? The larva of *Chrysoclista flavicaput* is unknown; but can it be an oak-feeder? Besides it would not now be in

the larva state.—H. T. STAINTON; *May* 17, 1856.

*Noctue flying by day.*—Mr. Douglas I see wishes for corroboration of the fact of Noctue flying in sunshine. On the 7th of April I took a *Taniocampa cruda* flying in the bright sunshine over the blossoms of a plum tree, about 11 A. M.: I have also several times taken *Hydræcia micacea* and *Leucania conigera* hovering over flowers in the bright sunshine, and in one instance *Hadena suasa*.—H. HARPUR CREWE, *Horndean, Hants*; *May* 14, 1856.

*Lepidoptera recently bred.*—Between April 7th and May 3rd I have bred three *Notodonta chaonia* from larvæ beaten off oak, near Tring, in July, and four *Clostera curtula* from larvæ, on aspen, taken near Eltham, in October; four *Eunomos illustraria* from larvæ beaten off beech in September and October, and two *Eunomos lunaria* from larvæ respectively on elm and hazel. Does the larva of *Eunomos illustraria* feed upon birch or oak in its wild state? I never but once beat it off anything but beech, and that exception was maple. On the 1st of April I bred a specimen of *Eupithecia coronaria*: the larva, to the best of my remembrance, was a pale green, and slightly hairy; it was beaten off maple in September. I am now breeding *Eupithecia satyraria* and *piperaria* from larvæ taken last September and October, feeding upon the petals of various flowers: when they can get it they seem to prefer the flower of *Gentiana campestris*, which is sometimes abundant in the locality where I find them. Last year, however, the plant was very scarce, and they ate indiscriminately every other flower. I have this morning bred *Eupithecia venosaria* from larvæ taken in July, in Derbyshire, on the seeds of *Lychnis dioica* and *Silene inflata*.—IBID.

*Notodonta Trepida* (LEP.).—On the 6th of May I took a beautiful male *No-*

*todonta trepida* on the stem of an oak, near Horndean, and on the 8th a female slightly worn: she has laid me nearly 100 eggs, which will, I hope, prove fertile.—IBID.

*Why do Lepidoptera, recently hatched, hang their wings downwards?*—Those who are in the habit of breeding Lepidoptera are aware that on emerging from the chrysalis the wings of the imago are small and soft, and it is some time before they are fully developed: during this time the insect remains with its wings hanging over its back. I have always understood that this was the natural effect of gravitation on substances so soft and flexible; and, as far as my experience goes, this seems the natural solution of the habits of all the Macro-Lepidoptera; but several times, when breeding Nepticulæ, I have found them, just after coming out, either on an inclined surface with their wings sloping upwards, or on a flat surface with their wings up over their back. I have never seen them place themselves in this position, and so of course the observation is incomplete, and if you, or any of your correspondents can either complete it, or give a satisfactory solution to it, I shall be much obliged.—T. BOYD, 17, *Clapton Square*; *May* 13, 1856.

*New Coleophora larva* (LEP.).—Mr. Wailes sent me last week a larva of a *Coleophora* feeding on *Genista anglica*; it is one I never saw before; the case is whitish, and in form something like that of *C. viminetella*. As the plant is common at Wanstead and other heathy places, perhaps some Londoner may now be able to find it; it blotches the small leaves of this *Genista*, making them whitish.—H. T. STAINTON; *May* 19, 1856.

*New Elachista larva*, (LEP.).—Mr. J. Scott has found, near Stockton, a larva referable to this genus, mining the leaves of the Blue Moor-grass (*Sesleria Cærn-*

lea). As this is a local grass, the new larva may produce a new species.—  
IBID.

*Spilonota neglectana* (LEP.).—I have some duplicates of *Spilonota neglectana*, and can always, in the season, take the insect in plenty. Do any of the readers of the 'Intelligencer' want the species? as I shall be happy to supply them with what I have, and can take more if requisite: I have also a few *Agrotis putris*.—  
T. WILDMAN, *Grove Place, Southampton Street, Camberwell*; May 19, 1856.

*Notodonta Carmelita*.—I took a fine rich dark female of this beautiful moth in the Addington Woods, on the 10th inst., and another fine one on the 15th, both at rest on trunks of birch trees: the latter has laid me about three dozen eggs.—SAMUEL STEVENS, 24, *Bloomsbury Street, London*; May 19, 1856.

*Notodonta dieteoides*.—I took a fine, and I think the largest, female of this species I ever saw, on the 10th inst., whilst searching for *Carmelita* on the trunk of a birch tree: she has laid me about five dozen eggs.—IBID.

*Ceropacha fluctuosa* (LEP.) bred.—Having taken some pupæ from the roots of birch in my locality, I was much surprised to-day to breed from them a lovely specimen of *C. fluctuosa*: I have often found this in the imago, but never could I find either larva or pupa previous to this. It may be worth the notice of some of your readers; if so, I shall be glad.—WILLIAM HYDES, *Bagshaw's Buildings, Park Spring, Sheffield*; May 19, 1856.

*New Coleophora* (LEP.).—I have this day bred a *Coleophora* from the pistol-shaped case I took at the Brushes, April 16th, on *Vaccinium Vitis-idaea*; it is a silvery lead colour, expands about five to six lines, fringe very long, antennæ very distinctly riuged. My friend T. Hague has sent me one, and tells me he has bred two others from the leaves he was indneed to get by reading my note of

captures at the Brushes: from Mr. Hague's note being dated before I bred it, he is entitled to the honour of having first bred this addition to our list.\*—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge Lane, Old Swan, Lancashire*; May 14, 1856.

*Eupithecia succenturiaria and subfulvaria*.—Will any gentleman please compare the three under-mentioned forms of *Eupithecia*, and inform us where the shape or markings differ?

Eup. Suecenturiaria,

Eup. Subfulvaria,

Eup. Cognaria.

The colour is not to be considered in the examination.—IBID.

*Eggs of Eupithecia wanted*.—I shall be particularly obliged to any one who will send me eggs, larva, or imago, of the genus *Eupithecia*; any person obtaining females, even if not fit to set, may make them useful by keeping them until they lay their eggs; they will find this genus easy to breed: I shall be happy to give information as to the food and habits of this genus, and shall be equally happy to receive information respecting them.—  
IBID.

*Hermaphrodite Gonepteryx Rhamni*.—I took last week a very distinct gynandromorphous specimen of *G. Rhamni*: besides the sexual difference in colour, the male wings are much smaller than the female ones.—JAMES BALDING, *Wisbech*; May 19, 1856.

*Cucullia Chamomilla*.—Since the 10th of the month I have been on the lookout for this species, and have been rewarded with some fine specimens: I find the insect more common here than in Lancashire, where I first met with it: I have taken it at the flowers of the blackthorn at dusk, but the greater number have been taken on rails during the day; rails of two or three year's standing, in the vicinity of fruit-trees, are the best localities. From larvæ taken last year I

\* I propose calling it *C. Vitisella*.

have bred *Ennomos illustraria*.—C. NELSON, M.D., *Dunbar*; May 19, 1856.

*Cerura bicuspis* bred.—I had a fine bred male *Cerura bicuspis* brought me by my friend Mr. Nixon; he found the pupa on an alder, as usual; the caterpillar invariably makes up into the chrysalis longitudinally on the bark, and very generally on the surface, instead of being in the crevices, as is general with *Bifida*.—J. B. HODGKINSON, 41, *St. Peter's Square*; May 18, 1856.

*Polyommatus Agestis* in *Lancashire*.—I see by the 'Manual' that *Agestis* does not occur in the North. About two years ago I took a good number of *Agestis* on the west side of Morecambe Bay: I also took nearly two hundred *Chlorochroma viridaria* there, not before known to occur, except in the South of England.—IBID.

*Larva of Tortrix ministrana*.—In March last I took a green larva on some fencing, which produced on May 10th *Tortrix ministrana*. As I have never seen any description of this larva, or in what manner it feeds (it is evident it lives all the winter), and, as I think every scrap of information is useful, I am induced to send you this.—H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch*; May 19, 1856.

*Eupithecia succenturiata*.—Will you allow me to correct an implied error in the 'Intelligencer,' No. 6, p. 44? My meaning with regard to *Eupithecia succenturiata* was, that I had bred that insect from larvæ feeding on the seeds and flowers of *Artemisia maritima*, on the sea-coast in Pembrokeshire, where I have never met with *Eupithecia subfulvata*; while, on the other hand, I have taken the latter here, in my own garden, in Buckinghamshire, where I have never met with *E. succenturiata*. Indeed, I quite believe the latter to be, as a general rule, a coast insect, and I think that Mr. S. Stevens's experience will bear me

out in that opinion.—HENRY BURNEY, *Wavendon Rectory*; May 19, 1856.

*Lithocolletis hortella*.—On Saturday last I had the pleasure of boxing a beautiful specimen of this insect on a paling: this was exactly four years since I first turned it up at Oxford. On Monday morning I boxed eight more. This morning the sun was shining on the palings, and there were hardly any moths there, but four out of these were *hortella*. I eschew long series, and therefore shall be happy to supply those who want the insect, as far as my captures will go.—P. H. NEWMHAM, *Stoke Rood, Guildford*; May 20, 1856.

*Coleophora Wockeella* (LEP.).—Mr. Parfitt has detected the larva of this species near Exeter.—H. T. STANTON; May 22, 1856.

*Bucculatrix maritima*.—Mr. Hemmings has found cocoons of a *Bucculatrix* attached to the stems and leaves of *Aster tripolium*; he has also found leaves of the *Aster* in a very suspiciously *Bucculatrix*-form manner. Should not this be *B. maritima*?—IBID.

*Solution of Enigma No. 6 of the 'Entomologist's Annual*.—Herr Schmid has bred this insect; it is a *Tortrix*, *Anchylopera Lundana*.—IBID.

*Ennomos illustraria*.—This species has again fallen to my share: the last one was taken on the 3rd of May. I have a hundred and fifty eggs just hatching, from which I expect to rear *illustraria*, with his late summer or early autumn plumage.—J. J. READING, *Plymouth*; May 20, 1856.

*Meloë brevicollis*.—I was fortunate enough to take four specimens of this insect last week.—IBID.

*Water-beetles at Lee*.—In an old pond near here, I have recently taken a single specimen of *Hydaticus Hybneri*, a species rare near London; one of *Colymbetes Gropii*, also a scarce species here; and a few of *Agabus agilis* and *A. affinis*.



In running water I took *A. didymus*, and three of *A. paludosus*; the latter is not one of our commonest species.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; *May* 20, 1856.

*Colymbetes guttiger*.—Dr. Power tells me he gets this species only from the North; will some of our friends there have the goodness to bear in mind this want of the southerners, if they meet with the species this summer.—IBID.

*Lebia crux-minor*.—I took three examples of this fine beetle at Holm Bnsh, on the 4th inst., and two on the 11th.—JOHN HEMMINGS, 2, *Bedford Buildings, Brighton*; *May* 19, 1856.

*Bembidium obliquum*, &c. — I got about a dozen specimens of this species under stones on the wet mud at Hove yesterday, and several *Harpalus attenuatus*, *H. rubripes*, &c., from moss near there.—IBID.

*Singular larvæ: what are they?*—In searching for Coleoptera during the past week, I rolled over some large stones, which for some time had been left on the grass in the park: under these I discovered a quantity of caterpillars of a very transparent milk-white colour, sparingly sprinkled over with black dots of various sizes, head and last joint of the body shining black; they appeared to be in a dormant state, being curled up in cavities made in the earth, the stone forming a roof to shelter them from cold. If you could inform me, in the next number of the 'Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer,' what these in all probability will turn to, you will greatly oblige Yours &c., WILLIAM ALLEN, *Western Terrace, the Park, Nottingham*; *May* 19, 1856.

[Can any of our readers assist us to answer this enquiry?]

*Dormant Elateridæ*.—Many of the *Elateridæ* have been taken by me under the stones above-mentioned: they appear when I find them in a dormant state, but they quickly revive when they have been a short time in the pocket.—IBID.

## MISCELLANEA.

NOTES AND QUERIES, BY J. O. WESTWOOD, ESQ.

1. Throughout the winter months the ends of rose twigs, which in the preceding year have been injured, may occasionally be observed to be bored with a minute hole, as though they had been pricked by a pin's point. On carefully splitting the end of the twig, it will be found that, beneath this little hole, the pith has been bored into, and at the bottom of the burrow there lies a little black Lepidopterous (I suppose Tortricideous) larva, enveloped in a white silken cocoon, and which had carefully closed the aperture at the top of the twig. Is this larva full-grown? or does it subsequently quit its enveloping cocoon, and recommence feeding? Does it feed on the leaves or in the pith? To what moth is it transformed?

[We are not acquainted with this larva; it may be that which feeds in the hips.]

2. In the middle of the month of May the young twigs of the ash may be observed to be marked with a narrow, tortuous, dirty pale brownish line, along the course of which an occasional hole, as big as a pin-hole, may be seen. This pale line conceals a burrow beneath the bark, containing a small dirty green Lepidopterous larva. I should be glad to learn the name of the species.

[*Prays Curtisellus*.]

3. The larvæ of *Porrectaria Laricella* eat the whole of the parenchyma in the apical half of the larch leaves, making a small round hole near the middle. Has this been effected before they made their silken cases, or do they quit their cases, leaving them at the mouth of their burrows? It is known that some *Porrectaria* larvæ quit their cases occasionally, but so far, I believe, as hitherto observed, it is only when they want to increase the

size of their abode by cutting off a bit of the dried surface of the leaf and adding it to the outside of their case, that they adopt this course.

[Some *Coleophora* larvæ, as, for instance, *lixella*, leave their cases at the mouth of their burrow, and proceed inside the leaf an inch or more.]

4. In the last note I have employed Haworth's generic name *Porrectaria*, considering that it is both highly expressive, and possessing a long priority over that of *Coleophora*, with which it appears to be perfectly identical, and consequently that, by all the rules of zoological nomenclature, it ought to be used. I am, in fact, afraid that a good many of the generic names recently adopted will not bear the test of an enquiry in this point of view.—J. O. W.; *May*, 1856.

[Haworth's genus *Porrectaria* includes our *Butalis* and several other things, and is by no means identical with our *Colco-phora*.]

WHY DO WASPS FREQUENT THE FLOWERS OF *SCROPHULARIA AQUATICA*?—On the Old Storage, and not far from the ruins of the Bower, several plants of *Scrophularia aquatica* were observed by us with some curiosity, almost every flower having a wasp regularly upon its contents. It is remarkable that this is almost the only plant that wasps show any partiality for, or seem to get anything from; but what they obtain from the dull-looking, fetid-smelling blossom so stimulating to their waspish natures is not exactly ascertained. Dr. Lindley, indeed, says that the leaves and roots of *Scrophularia* are "purgative and emetic;" so perhaps some "hygeist" among the wasps may have suggested their use of the secretion in the flowers as an equivalent to Morrison's pills!—*Edwin Lees' 'Pictures of Nature round Malvern.'*

HIGHGATE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.—A local Museum of Entomology is being formed at this flourishing Institution.

#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA

I wish now to direct the attention of two or three hundred pairs of eyes to a plant called *Ægopodium podagraria* (Gout-weed): it is one of the *Umbellifera*; it is not yet in flower. It grows in moist shady places, liking the damp hollows of woods. The leaf-stems will, in some instances, be observed not to be expanding regularly, but to be contorted or "crumpled up." The cause of this crumpling up is a very innocent-looking, rather stieky-looking, caterpillar, that of *Chaubodius Illigerellus*, which, unlike its gregarious congener *Cherophyllellus*, is generally a solitary liver, only one occurring on a single stem, though other stems at no remote distances will also be found tenanted by the same species of larvæ. I hope some of my readers will be able to send me this larva before the close of the present month.

*Cerostoma neuorella*.—I am no longer in want of this larva, having received samples from Herr Schmid, along with larvæ of *Tinea vinculella* and mines of the *Genista*-feeding *Lithocolletis Fraxinella*.—H. T. STAINTON; *May*, 22, 1856.

*Just published, price 5s.,*

A NEW FLORA OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF REIGATE, SURREY: Containing the NAMES, LOCALITIES, TIME OF FLOWERING, &c., of all the KNOWN FLOWERING PLANTS and FERNS of the district, comprising upwards of *Eight Hundred* Species. Also a list of the Mosses of the Neighbourhood, with a MAP of the District.

To which is added, in the form of an Appendix, lists of the FAUNA of the Neighbourhood, in the following orders:—MAMMALIA, BIRDS, REPTILES, FISHES, COLEOPTERA, and LEPIDOPTERA.

By JAMES ALEXANDER BREWER, F.L.S., *Corresponding Member, and Local Secretary of the Botanical Society of London.*

William Pamplin, 45, Frith Street, Soho.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 9.]

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Few things have surprised us more than the number of new correspondents we have obtained from London itself, and its immediate suburbs; entomologists who, though they would appear to have been some time at work, we had never met with or heard of. Can all these enthusiastic young votaries of Entomological science be aware of the existence of THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON? This Society meets at its rooms, 12, Bedford Row, Holborn, the first Monday in each month, at 8 P. M.: it meets there next Monday, June 2nd. We hear some one say he is afraid to go, he should be intruding, he does not know any one there: of course if he is afraid it is difficult to argue with him to convince him that his fears are groundless, but if he will make the attempt of ascending the two staircases which lead to the Society's rooms, he will find that they are not strewn with the bones of those unhappy young entomologists whom have been devoured by the older ones; but in the whole of our experience we never knew a case of an entomologist being eaten up; it is true entomologists have at times gone through the preliminary processes of being skinned and roasted, but the cannibal propensities of the Society never went farther, and it was only on the

leading members of the Society that these operations took place.

But the young entomologist is sure he should be intruding: well, of course as he has never been there he ought to be a good judge; but why should we with our experience invite him to come if his presence there would be an intrusion? And in the third place, our young friend says he knows no one there; but that is the very reason why he should go and try to get to know some one there; the process is not difficult; besides, our correspondents will be sure to find us there. But we will here sketch an imaginary scene, such as might take place if a young entomologist made his first appearance at a Meeting of the Society, some friend being with him to point out "who's who."

"Open the door quietly, for the meeting has already begun. You see every body is so intent on the business of the meeting that hardly any one looks at us. Now, hang up your hat and coat on one of the pegs behind the door, and come and stand near the fire-place, while I point out the principal people present.

"That gentleman who sits between the table and the wall, with his chair more elevated than the rest, is the President; he is Mr. Saunders. You will observe when he speaks he has a very pleasant smile. On his right you see a sallow-complexioned gentleman, with a great

deal of hair about the lower part of his face; that is the senior Secretary, Mr. Douglas."

"What? *The* Mr. Douglas, who wrote that jolly book 'The World of Insects?'"

"The same: now beside him you see a smaller, fair-haired gentleman; that is the other Secretary, Mr. Shepherd, of whose collection you have heard so much."

"But who is that lively-looking gentleman that sits behind him; now he is busy taking notes; but a few minutes ago he was talking very briskly?"

"That is Mr. Westwood."

"What? Westwood of the 'Introduction to Modern Clas—'"

"Yes. But now look on the other side of the President, you will see a gentleman very bald and with a care-worn expression of countenance, who every now and then has some money handed to him, and he sends a slip of paper across the table in exchange; that is Mr. Stevens, the Treasurer; it is a very anxious post that of Treasurer to a learned body."

"But who is that little gentleman with a chin as hairy as Mr. Douglas?"

"That is Mr. Janson, so learned in Staphylinæ."

"Then who is that now talking to Mr. Westwood, with long dark hair and with no whiskers?"

"That is Mr. Stainton; you will see he is always ready to laugh at a joke, and is a most hearty laugher."

"Then who is that very pleasant-looking gentleman, rather bald, who

solaces himself now and then with a pinch of snuff?"

"That is Mr. Waterhouse; and he is not only pleasant-looking, but really a very pleasant person." . . . . .

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 3s. 8d. in postage stamps.

*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

MR. STAINTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 p. m. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, p. m.

On these occasions MR. STAINTON is happy to see any entomologist above 14 years of age (whether previously known to him or not), who may wish to look at his collection or consult him on any entomological matter.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. B.—*Erebia Blandina* is in many books called *Hipparchia Blandina*, or the Scotch Ringlet.

YOUNG KENT.—Your fly is very common, and nothing peculiar: we are not fly-learned enough to know its name, but will endeavour to ascertain.

A SCHOOL BOY ENTOMOLOGIST must confide us his name before we answer his enquiry. We shall not eat him, so he needn't be afraid. We have many school-boy correspondents who write their own letters.

W. T., JUNR.—Dead moths and dead pupæ are frequently clothed with a fungoid development.

W. F., WATERINGBURY.—We cannot recognise your larva from description: it hardly appears to be *G. quercifolia*.

H. W. B.—Your beetle is *Typhæus vulgaris*; you will find it figured at Plate 43 of Spry and Shuekard's 'British Coleoptera Delineated.'

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*Micropteryx Salopiella* (LEP.), no longer at home at Shrewsbury.—I regret to say that I have searched in vain for *M. Salopiella*, and I fear that the felling of the birches which it used to frequent, has quite extinguished the insect in this part.—G. M. SALT, Shrewsbury; May 20, 1856.

*Duplicate Lepidoptera*.—I have duplicates of the following:—

Argynnis Aglaia,  
 „ Adippe,  
 Smerinthus Tilia,  
 „ ocellatus,  
 Sphinx Ligustri,  
 Lasioeampa Trifolii,

and am in want of the following:—

Melitæa Cinxia,  
 Colias Edusa,  
 „ Hyale,  
 Hipparehus papilionarius,  
 Hemithea vernaria.

—F. MEYER, 17, Pand Street, St. Mary's Square, Birmingham; May 17, 1856.

*Hyponomeuta vigintipunctatus* (LEP. TIN.).—I caught a specimen of this insect here last evening, in a bushy place amongst oaks.—P. H. NEWNHAM, Stoke Road, Guildford; May 21, 1856.

I notice a typographical error at p. 4 of Mr. Shield's 'Practical Hints,' *Micro* being put instead of *Macro*: perhaps it would be as well to mention this in your next 'Intelligencer.'—T. CHAPMAN, Glasgow; May 24, 1856.

*Chrysophanus dispar* (LEP.) in Staffordshire.—A county is rather an extensive locality; but the place where the butterfly was taken my friend did not let me know, as he wished to try the place for it this season for his own cabinet, and also for that of a friend: last season he only captured two specimens. It is any thing but pleasant to be criticised when I did my best to please (as I thought).—R. WEAVER, Rugeley; May 24, 1856.

*Gastropacha ilieifolia* (LEP.).—Five specimens have been taken this year on Cannoeh Chase; two in the chrysalis by H. Boyle, Esq., about the middle of April, and three perfect insects by myself, two on the 16th and one on the 20th inst.; they were hanging on the under side of sprigs of heather; they were all taken close by the spot where I took the two last year.—ARTHUR W. PARTRIDGE, at Rugeley Vicarage, Staffordshire; May 24, 1856.

*Speranza conspicnaria*.—On Friday last I was hunting after this species, which I am sorry to say is much scarcer than it used to be, in consequence of a great deal of the broom being destroyed. It will probably soon become extinct,

and I fear many of the numerous applicants, in consequence of the notice in the 'Annual,' will have to go without their specimens this year at least.—C. R. BREE, *Stricklands, Stowmarket; May 24, 1856.*

*Coleophora of the Genista at Wanstead.*—Prompted by the hint in the 'Intelligencer' of Saturday, I paid yesterday a visit to Wanstead, and after a search extending over the greater part of the morning, succeeding in taking in the space of a few yards several larvæ of the *Coleophora* on the *Genista anglica*, but though I searched many other parts of the Common, I could only meet with a solitary one here and there.—C. MILLER, 17, *Silurian Terrace; May 26, 1856.*

*Nepticula argentipedella bred at last.*—This insect has now made its appearance from the Scitelliform birch-mines: these mines were first detected in this country by Mr. Wing, in October 1853. Two years and seven months have been necessary to solve this problem. I wonder whether we shall breed the new *Coleophora* of the *Genista anglica* before another thirty-one months have elapsed. *Ars longa, vita brevis.*—H. T. STANTON; *May 28, 1856.*

*Duplicate Lepidoptera.*—I have taken the following, and can procure them for any one:—

- Cabera pusaria,
- Cidaria montanata,
- „ propugnata,
- Polyphasia russata,
- Aeidalia remutata,
- Harpalyce picata.

I have had nearly thirty applications for *Melanippe rivata*, proving that a moth somewhat common here is not so everywhere.—EDWARD S. NORCOMBE, *Heavitree; May 27, 1856.*

*Duplicate Lepidoptera.*—I have some good duplicates of

- Smerinthus populi,
- Porthetria dispar,

- Mythimna turca,
- Caradrina glareosa,
- Amphipyra pyramidea,
- Thyatira derasa and batis,
- Biston betularius:

any of your readers in want of any of the above, I shall be happy to supply while my stock lasts.—WILLIAM RODGERS, *Moorgate Grove, Rotherham; May 26, 1856.*

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR JUNE.

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LEPIDOPTERA.—Most of the species that should have appeared in May may now be looked for. The Orange Tip, Small Fritillaries and Wood White are not yet over. The clear-winged Sphinges are still to be met with, whilst many of the commoner Prominents will yet be found on palings or trunks of trees. Some of the early Sharks may be noticed on the wing at early dusk, and the little white *Cilix compressa* flits about merrily in company with the more gaily-coloured Brimstone Moth (*Runia Cratægata*): as it grows darker, and the *Noctuae* emerge from their snug retreats, many may be observed, and those with pale underwings are most readily detected in the summer twilight, and whilst a *Manestra Brassicae*, or *Persicariae*, with difficulty attracts our attention, the white underwinged *Agrotis segetum*, and *exclamationis* and *Graphiphora plecta* are caught by the score. Sugar is placed, and wisely, on the trunks of many trees, and a swarm of the variable *Miana strigilis* and *Grammesia trilinea* is the result. *Hepialus hectus*, *humuli* and *lupulinus*, may all be found in grassy places. It was in company with *H. hectus*, near Amble-side, that we first met with the lovely *Xerene albicillata*. Several of the early *Tortricina* are already stirring, especially species of the genus *Anychylopera*; and in the *Tineina* whole groups are

now in the full blaze of their activity, and *Adelæ* by day, and *Nemophoræ* at evening, twiddle their long horns gracefully. A shoal of *Elachistæ*, *Lithocolletes* and *Nepticulæ*, may be found on any respectable paling if it only blows sufficiently; for as the collector observes, after filling all his boxes from a fence some windy day in June, "it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good."

COLEOPTERA. *By J. W. Douglas.*—While the whitethorn is in bloom I should like to call attention to it: such hosts of insects are attached to the blossoms that it is likely, if a little time be devoted to them, that some good species would be detected, more particularly if in the neighbourhood of old trees. In Richmond Park I once beat an *Ischnomera flavicollis*, and *Tetrops præusta* was in profusion. Another tree, the Mountain Ash, is now in full bloom, and to its sweet flowers many insects come: Mr. Stevens beat from them *Rhynchites cupreus* and *Necydalis minor* at Black Park some years ago.

Throughout Stephens' 'Manual,' "under bark" occurs continually as the habitat of species of beetles: felled trees are perhaps the most prolific, and if you can get an old oak which has escaped the peeling process, you are sure to be rewarded with a greater abundance, both in specimens and species, than in any other tree. But in old standing trees of all kinds the bark is often loose in places, and when it is not dry you may generally find something underneath, occasionally a rarity; in fact, until you try you never know what may be there. *Nitidula*, *Corticaria*, *Phloiophilus*, *Ips*, *Synchita*, *Cerylon*, *Rhizophagus*, *Cucujus*, *Dendrophilus*, *Platysoma*, *Eryx*, *Hypulus* and *Hypophleus*, are among the genera whose species dwell under bark. There are so few old trees near London, that it is to collectors who can get to old woods and forests that we have to look for specimens of wood-eating insects, which are

generally scarcer in collections than species whose habitat is more on the surface. There is one insect, however, that is probably to be found within the London district, as it used to be taken at Coombe Wood in old broom-stumps under the bark; I mean *Cucujus Spartii*. If any one knows where such stumps are to met with, this rare insect might probably be discovered.—J. W. D.

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#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TINEINA.

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N.B. *No Coleophora serenella and no Chauliodus Illigerellus have yet reached me.*

The season has hitherto been so backward, and the weather so unfavourable, that we do not seem fairly to have opened the campaign yet. May larvæ no doubt have been and are feeding, though we have not been able to get out and look after them.

Should not some one be able to find the larva of *Coleophora niveicostella*? the insect is constantly taken at Mickleham and Headley Lane by every collector who goes there: cannot some one find the larva? What does it feed on? That is a question I cannot yet answer; its food has yet to be determined, but till the horse-shoe vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*) has yet been thoroughly examined, we cannot say that it does *not* feed on that.

Then again, where does *Cleodora cytisella* feed? *C. striatella* is known to feed in the stems of the tansy (and no doubt a rare lot of tansy stems have been collected with the view of breeding it), and there is a strong inference that *cytisella* should be found in the stems of the common fern (*Pteris aquilina*).

I wonder if any Bristol entomologist is energetic and skilful enough to be able to find the larva of *Röslerstammia Erxlebella* feeding on the leaves of the lime trees in Leigh Wood?

The larva of *Plutella Dalella* should keep our northern friends who inhabit moorland localities on the look out; and those who reside amongst *Genista tinctoria* ought to be wide awake for *Coleophora vibicella*, or does this species only occur in Trench Wood, Woreestershire, where Mr. Weaver met with it years ago.—H. T. STANTON; *May 28, 1856.*

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MISCELLANEA.

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*To the Editor of the 'Intelligencer.'*

SIR,—I read, with much regret in the 'Intelligencer' of the 17th May, a most unjust attack upon the Members of the Entomological Society, apparently by one of its own body: a few words of truth may serve to explain what I would fain hope to have arisen out of pure ignorance of the subject; not, indeed, that even this is quite a sufficient excuse for the slander: a person should make himself well acquainted with circumstances before he ventures to put forth statements detrimental to a body of gentlemen. In the first place, the Society never decided upon selling the Foreign Insects; the council felt themselves, with regret, bound to recommend the sale, but the Society has not acted upon that recommendation. The position is this: the Society is not in a condition to pay the sum necessary to secure the services of competent persons to arrange and name the collection; and an unnamed one is next to useless; therefore it has been thought advisable to sell the Foreign Insects, and with the proceeds of such sale to enlarge the library for the use of the Members: many valuable and necessary works by these means would be secured for the use of the Society.

The next paragraph I will not trust myself further in remarking upon, than to say, it is a gross mis-statement: the Society never advised Members to go

abroad and collect, and in return, sold the very insects presented by its Members; circumstances may justify such a sale, but it would be made with regret, and not as the writer insinuates for the sake of a bargain.

The Council of the Society is composed of gentlemen far above offering, through their estimable President, any disrespect to their Members as a body; and in the recommendation emanating from the Council, a reservation was particularly made as to the retention of all typical specimens. The reasons for the recommendation of the Council have been found, after mature deliberation, insurmountable, and, unless they be acted upon, the collection will gradually perish. It is quite evident that the writer of the letter signed M. E. S., knows little of the time, talent and labour, which would be required to put the Society's collection into a creditable state of arrangement and classification.

I trust that the readers of the 'Intelligencer' will await the decision of the Society, after it is made acquainted with the reasons which induced the Council to recommend the sale of a portion of the Society's collection, and not jump to any hasty conclusion condemnatory to gentlemen totally incapable of acting in the manner your correspondent has represented them to have done.

Your obedient Servant,

A MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

*May 22nd.*

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In answer to "Notes and Queries" by J. O. W., No. 1:—I have no doubt that the Tortricideous larva is the larva of "*Stigmonota Puncticostana*:" I have twice bred that pretty moth from similar twigs: I know not on what they fed previous to borrowing in the twig.—FRED. BOND, 24, *Cavendish Road*; *May 27, 1856.*



A POSTAL GUIDE.—‘The British Postal Guide,’ which was promised by the Postmaster-General in his annual report, has just been issued. It contains about 130 pages of closely-printed matter, and is to be sold to the public for sixpence at the various post-offices. It contains full information about the inland and foreign postage on letters, newspapers and books, and also respecting money-orders and the registration of letters, with the days when foreign mails are made up and due; valuable suggestions about directing, sealing and posting letters, and preferring complaints to the chief office; a list of the post-offices and money-order offices in the United Kingdom, and of nearly 10,000 places abroad, with the means of ascertaining the mails by which letters for the latter are sent; the hours for posting and delivering letters in the metropolitan district; a list of the letter-receiving houses in London and its vicinity, with the nearest money-order offices to the villages around London; the various fees to be paid for posting letters after time; and a list of provincial towns to and from which there is a double daily postal communication with the metropolis. To show the necessity of properly directing letters, it is stated in the ‘Guide’ that letters for Belgravia have been sent to Belgrade, through want of care in directing them.—*Civil Service Gazette*.

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM. By W. S. DALLAS, F.L.S. London: Houlston & Stoneman, 65, Paternoster Row; W. S. Orr & Co., Amen Corner.

This octavo volume of 800 pages is, as we are informed in the Preface, a reprint in a complete form of a portion of the second and third volumes of Organic

Nature, in Orr’s ‘Circle of the Sciences,’ so that those who possess that work are already in possession of this volume.

To embrace the entire animal kingdom in a moderate sized volume, to present at the same time a clear, intelligible and compendious view of the subject, to give a “systematic and popular description of the habits, structure and classification of animals from the lowest to the highest forms,” is by no means an easy task.

Unfortunately the space allotted to the INSECTA in this volume is very limited, but eighty pages; however, in this space as much information is given as could very well be compressed within it. To the birds 230 pages are allotted, and to the Mammalia 130, and, after all, these are the groups to which the minds of the many turn when *animals* are talked of, and on this account we have no doubt that the bulk of the purchasers will be well satisfied to find that the groups to which they attach most interest, though placed at the end of the volume, have received the lion’s share of the author’s attention.

Those who want a cheap general view of the animal kingdom will probably find this volume answer their purpose. It has a showy exterior, and a frontispiece printed in colours, whereby to attract the attention of the multitude, that multitude which cannot judge of the scientific merits of the volume, and needs some direct appeal to the senses.

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A NEW FLORA OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF REIGATE. By J. A. BREWER, F.L.S. Price 5s. William Pamplin, 45, Frith Street, Soho.

In these days when the study of Entomological Botany is making such vast strides, and is causing the energy of the

entomologist to impinge with some force on the slow-coachedness of the botanist, a sudden demand appears to have sprung up for local Floras: they are wanted not by the botanists but by the entomologists. The full force of this demand has not yet been felt, but it is a *growing* demand, and in twenty years it will have exercised a very perceptible influence on the local Floras yet to be compiled; to suit the entomological palate, they will be interspersed with notes relating to insects.

The Flora of Reigate includes the well-known districts of Box Hill and Mickleham, and will no doubt form the pocket-companion of many of our readers during their summer rambles in that direction. Reigate Heath, judging from the plants which grow there, ought to be a very rich locality for entomologists, and we hope that this little book will do much to extend its fame.

"On the hills about a mile east of Merstham," we read at p. 101, that *Astragalus glycyphyllus* "is plentiful." Will any good-natured Mersthamite search on it for the larva of *Coleophora serenella*? We do not know that we have any readers at Merstham; there used to be a girls' school (or an "establishment for young ladies") there; perhaps some of the scholars may have imbibed the botanical tastes recommended to them in 'June: a Book for the Country in Summer Time.'

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Price 1s.

**T**HE ZOOLOGIST: A POPULAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The Number for June contains several important Entomological Papers.

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Now ready, price 3d., No. 4 of

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The work will contain descriptions of all the British species, with popular readable instructions where to find and how to know them, and is illustrated with numerous wood-cuts.

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Just out, price 3s.,

**JUNE:**

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY IN SUMMER TIME.

By H. T. STANTON.

"Chatty, picturesque and true."—*News of the World*.

"Likely to interest the young who are naturalists *in esse* or *in posse*."—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans.

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Price 3s. 6d.

**T**HE WORLD OF INSECTS; A GUIDE TO ITS WONDERS.

By J. W. DOUGLAS,

Secretary to the Entomological Society of London.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, May 31, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 10.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## ERRORS OF OBSERVATION.

*(From a Correspondent).*

At a time when Entomology seems taking such a stride as at present, and when the 'Intelligencer' is bringing such a number of new observers into the field, a few remarks on the nature of observation, and the liabilities to error incident to it, may not be inappropriate.

When a person makes an observation, which subsequently proves to be incorrect, he lays the blame on his senses, and says they deceive him: this, however, is not the case, for from the point of view from which we are now looking at the subject our senses never do deceive us: the error lies in confounding an inference drawn by the mind with a fact observed by the senses. In the well-known trick of a man whistling like a flute, a person, on finding that the flute was played by an unseen performer, exclaims "How my senses deceived me;" whereas, in fact, he deceived himself: his eye told him that the performer's mouth moved in a certain manner; his ear told him of certain sounds corresponding to these movements; but the putting these two observations together and drawing from them the inference

that the sound came from the mouth of the performer, was an action of the mind, and entirely independent of the senses. The amount of error caused in this way is incalculable, and would not be believed by any one whose attention had not been drawn to the subject. Where the inference is correct it may pass muster as an observation without doing much harm to any one, except the observer, on whose mind it must have a bad effect, but if it is incorrect it must do harm, not only by the amount of error diffused, but by the doubt cast upon other and better observations and well-drawn inferences.

To mention a few instances bearing on the science of Entomology: an insect is caught on the wing in good condition at two different times in the year; therefore it is double-brooded! Two insects, which are much alike, and yet have some constant distinction, are taken, the one always in the spring, the other always in the autumn; therefore they are two species! An insect is taken, the male in abundance, the female but rarely; therefore the male is more abundant than the female! or perhaps an insect is taken which agrees with the description of some rarity; therefore the rarity has been taken! In each case the inference may be right, or it may be

wrong; and the error lies in stating this inference, whether right or wrong, as an observation.

As an instance of another class of errors, I would mention a case which occurred a short time since. Most of your readers will recollect a paper on digging for pupæ, which gave such an impetus to that mode of collecting. While that paper was being read before the Society, a friend sitting by me said "I know some people who get numbers of pupæ from hedge-rows;" and almost immediately after came the dictum of the author, "as for hedge-rows, it is no use trying them." The error in this case arose from drawing a conclusion from unsuitable observation: the information sought to be given was the comparative value of different localities for pupæ; and the only observations from which such an inference could be justly drawn would have been those in which each locality had its equal share of attention, which in this case it evidently had not. This, however, is an error from which few are exempt, and from it arise all those strange partialities for particular times, or places, or trees, which sometimes produce such strange results.

Hearsay descriptions I have not noticed, for a person trusting to them is almost certain to go wrong; nor have I mentioned errors of reasoning, for they belong to the higher walks of science, and would be foreign to the subject in hand; but I shall be glad if what I have said has the effect of lessening that mass

of error which arises from causes so readily prevented.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 3s. 6d. in postage stamps.

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*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STANTON will be at home, as usual, on Wednesday next, at 6 P. M. Trains by the North Kent Railway leave London Bridge at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, returning from the Lewisham Station at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

On these occasions MR. STANTON is happy to see any entomologist above 14 years of age (whether previously known to him or not), who may wish to look at his collection or consult him on any entomological matter.

N.B.—MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, June 18th, nor on Wednesday, June 25th.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

—

A. F., CHICHESTER.—We do not know of any work we can recommend you on the Natural History of Jersey. The insects of the Channel Islands are *not* considered British.

A YOUNG COLLECTOR is troublesome, because anonymous. We do not answer anonymous communications.

C. H., HAGGERSTONE.—Your larva is *Tuleporia pseudobombycella*; it should now be full-fed; it is *supposed* to feed on lichens. Darenth Wood is, I believe, free to all comers. West Wickham Wood you may sometimes be turned out of, but the proprietor won't give any orders.

G. N. H.—We do not feel certain about your cases: at any rate their former tenants have no doubt had many a hearty meal off the insects on your setting-boards.

E. G. C.—See p. 77, l. 3. "The perfect insects fly by day."

E. H.—*Unidentaria* has a black medial fascia; in *Ferrugaria* it is dull rosy; the ochreous slender fasciæ are more distinct in *Unidentaria*. Westwood's *Remutata* is a var. of *Aversata*, totally distinct from our old *Floslactata*, which is the *Remutaria* of Doubleday's Catalogue.

F. M.—Cold water is efficient; why go to more trouble?

J. P. T.—We cannot account for the vagaries of your *Cossus* larva; it appears to be troubled with indecision of character, a great misfortune to man or beast. If you suspect the larva of *Æsculi* to be inside a tree, we know of no better means of ascertaining whether your surmise is correct than by cutting down the tree and examining it bit by bit: this is, however, an expensive proceeding. Any Member of the Entomological Society

can give you an order to view the collection; it is open on Mondays from 2 to 7 P. M.

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*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several important communications.*

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## COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Charocampa Celerio*.—It may perhaps be worth mentioning that I have in my collection an unrecorded specimen of *Charocampa Celerio*, which I have now had some years, and which was taken from the banister of a house in this town.—A. FULLER, *Brozle House, Chichester*; May 28, 1856.

*Duplicate Lepidoptera*.—I shall be happy to supply any one who may want them, with *Polyommatus Alsus* and *Nemeobius Lucina*. *Leiocampa dictæa* is also being taken at lights pretty freely.—ARTHUR NASH, *Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill, Bristol*; May 30, 1856.

*Polyommatus Argiolus* (LEP.).—In consequence of the numerous demands for this insect my stock is now exhausted, and as I receive daily applications for this insect this notice will save parties, still in want of this species, the trouble of applying. I shall, however, not fail in case of another capture to apprise you, when I shall feel most happy in supplying all who have been disappointed.—F. MEYER, 17, *Sand Street, Birmingham*; June 2, 1856.

*Cucullia Scrophulariæ* (LEP.).—Last July I found about twenty larvæ of *C. Scrophulariæ* at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, feeding on the water betony. I bred one a week ago; three more have just appeared, and I hope to rear the others in due course. If any of your readers want specimens I shall be happy to supply

them if any come out.—R. F. TURNBULL, 4, *Chatham Place, Ramsgate.*

[As *C. Verbasci* also feeds on the water betony, this may only be *that* species.]

*Ennomos Illustraria*.—Mr. H. Harper Crewe wishes to know if the larva of this species will feed on birch or oak in its wild state. The two larvæ of *Illustraria* mentioned in No. 6 of the 'Weekly Intelligencer' as having been taken by me on the 22nd July, at Black Park, were both beaten from oak. Two were taken the same day by Mr. J. Standish, one from oak and one from chestnut. I also took two from oak, at Darenth Wood, last September. With these two exceptions, all my *Illustraria* larvæ (twenty-one in number) were procured from birch. Mr. H. Doubleday informs me he has once or twice taken it from aspen, at Epping; and Mr. F. O. Standish found a larva on a paling under an elm.—WILLIAM MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End*; May 28, 1856.

*Ceropacha fluctuosa*.—The larva of this insect is not uncommon at Darenth Wood the end of September and October; it is white, with a brown head; it is more slender than the larvæ of *Ridens*: it feeds between united birch leaves, similar to *Flavicornis*: it is very subject to Ichneumon. I have also taken both the larva and imago at West Wickham.—IBID.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Darenth Wood*.—Since my last communication I have taken the following:—

*Trochilium euliciforme*,  
*Lithosia aureola*,  
*Notodonta trepida*,  
*Clostera curtula*,  
*Cloantha conspiciellaris*,  
*Pyrausta octomaculalis*,  
*Nola strigularis*,

*Macaria notataria*, &c., &c., &c.—H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch*; May 30, 1856.

*Noctuæ flying by day*.—In addition to the Noctuæ already named in the 'Intelligencer' as flying by day, I find by my Journal that the following species have been observed on the wing at different times (flying for pleasure). *Heliofobus popularis*, over grass several times. *Charæus graminis*; this of course is a well-known morning flier. *Luperina cespitis* flying over *Senecio Jacobæa* flowers; noon; August: three specimens were captured so flying. *Mamestra albicolon* flying over *Ononis arvensis* flowers; noon: often seen. *Miana Erratricula*, Hb., frequently observed flying round lucerne about 3 P. M. on very hot days. *Celena Haworthii* often flies in the afternoon when the fog is thick on the moss; on such days a cigar, or very short pipe which is better, is absolutely necessary to keep the midges at a respectful distance. *Agrotis Valligera*: on some hot sultry days this insect may be seen in hundreds flying over, and settling upon, the flowers of *Senecio Jacobæa*, on the coast here. *Agrotis cursoria* has a similar habit; and *A. Triticæ* is generally flying with them, and sipping the sweets from that disagreeable-smelling flower. *Agrotis porphyrea* often flies freely on the moss from 3 P. M.; and on August 12, 1852, I took several *A. præcox* on the wing at or about 10 A. M. over *S. Jacobæa* flowers. *Agrotis pyrophila* flies regularly about 10 A. M., as does *A. lucerneæ* when the sun is hot. I have several times observed *Lucerneæ* on the wing again about 4 A. M. *Miana exposita* also flies by day.—C. S. GREGGSON, *Edge Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool*; May 28, 1856.

*Lithocolletis quinqueguttella*.—I have this day bred *Lithocolletis quinqueguttella* from leaves of the small willow, collected on our sand-hills last October.—IBID.

*Lithocolletis Vacciniella*.—I am now breeding *Lithocolletis Vacciniella* from leaves collected by Mr. T. Hagne at the "Brushes."—IBID.

*Captures on the Cheshire Sand-Hills.*  
—Whilst upon the sand-hills with Mr. Greening on the 20th inst., we met with *Lithocolletis quinqueguttella*, and secured a good set each. *Gelechia desertella*, *mundella*, *affinis* and *Artemisiella*, were just appearing; and *Gelechia Pernigrella*, *Sororculella* and *Populella*, larvæ were feeding upon the small salwos. *Pernigrella* only just hatched.—  
IBID.

*Observations by Professor Frey, of Zurich, on Nepticulæ.*—“*Nepticula assimilella* (Metzn. Zell.) mines the leaves of the aspen (*Populus tremula*). On wild apple-trees occurs with us, in woods, a small *Nepticula* larva, often in great numbers in a single leaf: it produced a new species, nearly allied to *N. anomallella* and *minusculella*, which I have bred in plenty and named *N. desperatella*. From *Amellanchier vulgaris* I have bred a beautiful species, which comes midway between *N. gratiosella* and *splendidissima*, for which I propose the name *N. mespilicola*. Above all you will be interested to hear, that from *Potentilla fragariastrum* and *Fragaria*, *Nepticula arcuata* has appeared, a species I had previously sent to Herrich-Schäffer, and which is described in his work: it comes nearest to the rose-feeding *Angulifasciella*. *N. minusculella*, H.-S., I have bred from wild pear-trees.” The above will show that our esteemed correspondent has not slackened in his career of discovery.—H. T. STAINTON; June 2, 1856.

*Lasiocampa Trifolii* (LEP.).—During a visit just paid to the Sussex coast I turned up the larvæ of *Lasiocampa Trifolii*. I watched their habits during my stay, which are very interesting: the spot on which they were feeding would be covered by a pistol-shot radius; not one could I find in any other part of the neighbourhood. The collecting I left until the last day, when I gathered upwards of three hundred in less than an

hour, and could have taken a thousand more: after a journey of 180 miles they are now “doing well” on various grasses growing here. Humphrey and Westwood say, “feed on trefoil and plantain:’ mine will not touch either.—G. GASCOYNE, Newark, Notts; June 3, 1856.

*Lasiocampa Trifolii* (LEP.).—I shall be happy to supply any entomologist with this larva as long as my stock holds out. I shall also feel much obliged to any kind collector who would supply me with the larvæ or pupæ of *P. Machaon*, *G. Quercifolia* or *S. Carpini*.—E. LETHBRIDGE, 40, Old Town Street, Plymouth; June 3, 1856.

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#### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Monday, June 2, 1856. W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., President, in the Chair.

BISTON HIRTARIUS.—Singular hermaphrodite specimens of this insect were exhibited by Mr. Bond: the body and wings were evidently female, but the antennæ were partially male, being pectinated to a considerable extent.

LARVÆ OF PETASIA NUBECULOSA.—Mr. Stevens exhibited larvæ of this species, reared from eggs obtained by Mr. Foxcroft.

COLEOPHORA OF THE GENISTA ANGLICA.—Mr. Douglas exhibited some of these larvæ, collected near Newcastle by Mr. and Mrs. Wailes.

RARE COLEOPTERA.—Mr. Douglas exhibited *Cryptocephalus Coryli* from West Wickham; *Lebia crux-minor* from Holme Bush, near Brighton, taken by Mr. Hemming; and *Platyrhinus latirostris* found in fungi, near Bristol, by Mr. G. Harding, Junr.

Mr. Smith exhibited this last species from Scotland, where it had been taken by Mr. Foxcroft, at Rannoch.

AGDISTES BENNETTII.—Mr. S. Stevens stated that he had discovered the larva of this species on *Statice limonium*, and exhibited a pupa of the insect.

PUPA OF SMERINTHUS TILIÆ IN A SILKEN COCOON.—Captain Cox mentioned that under the bark of the plane-tree, four feet from the ground, he had found a large pupa enclosed in a firm silken cocoon: to his extreme surprise this had produced *Smerinthus Tiliæ*: the skin of the pupa was much less rugose than ordinary.

The President read a paper on the transformations of insects in Natal, discovered by Mr. Plant.

Mr. Westwood read a paper on the wing-veins of insects, completely proving, to his own satisfaction, that Mr. Newman's views on the subject were erroneous.

A paper by Mr. Adam White was read, descriptive of five Homoptera from Borneo, Celebes and Ceylon.

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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ON THE VARIATION OF SPECIES; *with especial reference to THE INSECTA; followed by an inquiry into THE NATURE OF GENERA.* By T. VERNON WOLLASTON, M.A., F.L.S. 8vo, cloth. Price 5s. London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row.

A compact portable book, by Mr. Wollaston, will be a boon to many: it would have been eagerly hailed by entomologists whatever had been the subject.

To entomologists, the question "what constitutes a species?" must ever be an interesting one; the fact that a variety may be constant, and yet still not be specifically distinct, is one we cannot ignore.

In the volume we have now before us, Mr. Wollaston has undertaken to show how species may be subject to variation owing to climatal causes generally; to temporary heat or cold of an unusual degree; to the nature of the country and the soil; and lastly to isolation and exposure to a stormy atmosphere. That a work treating on a subject of such vast importance to those who are intent upon adding a *species* to their collections, will be eagerly scanned by many we cannot doubt. We will endeavour to epitomize Mr. Wollaston's views on the different headings we have noticed.

*Variation from climatal causes generally.*—Climate, taken alone, does not appear to produce any very decided modifying effect on insect form; hence numerous species of comparatively wide distribution are totally unaffected by it. But climatal operation has an amount of influence on certain species; thus *Nebria complanata* assumes a more pallid line in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux than it does on the sandy coasts of Devonshire and Wales. *Bembidium obtusum* is shorter and less parallel in our own latitude than it is in the Madeiran group and along the Mediterranean shores; and Madeiran specimens of *Lycæna Phleas* are invariably darker and more suffused than the English ones.

*Temporary heat or cold of an unusual degree.*—This frequently affects the development of the wings. Many Coleoptera, especially the *Carabida*, are subject to great inconstancy in their metathoracic organs of flight. Our common *Calathus mollis* has the hind wings at one time ample, at another rudimentary, and a third nearly obsolete, and it will be found on examination that the greater or less development of them may frequently be explained by the unusual severity of the seasons. The common bed-bug is almost invariably apterous; yet Scopoli mentions its occurrence with perfect wings, and Westwood remarks



that it has been reported as occasionally winged in the West Indies; and it would seem probable that here we may detect the consequences of heat.

*Nature of the country and of the soil.*

—Many areas have a natural superiority over others for the increase of animal tribes, even apart from the direct action of heat and cold; thus in Ireland we find an insect fauna curiously limited: from whatever cause this may arise, the *fact* remains; and in the mountains of Kerry, although abounding with wood and water, and presenting every apparent requisite for the full development of insect life, the collector will often be disappointed by finding that a hard day's work has not ensured him the same amount of success as he would have reaped in less than half an hour in many an English meadow: and Ireland is not only remarkable for the paucity of its species, but also for the paucity of its individuals. In like manner the South-western corner of England is by far the most unprofitable portion of our island for insect ascendency.

*Isolation and exposure to a stormy atmosphere.*—The power of isolation over insect form is perhaps more especially to be detected in deterioration of stature. Whether this principally emanates from the constant irritation of a stormy atmosphere, such as small islands are exposed to, and which would seem to have stunted the development of the animal and vegetable worlds during a long series of ages, or from a diminution of area consequent on the breaking up of continuous lands, it is difficult to pronounce. It is a law, to which a large proportion of the organic creation would appear to be subject, that the exuberance of life, as regards the grandeur of the size of the species, has reference to the magnitude of the spot over which it is permitted to range. The unnatural breeding-in of a single race, which must of necessity happen, unless the inter-

course with other varieties of its kind be possible, has always been attended with effects more or less pernicious: thus on Lundy Island *Anthonomus ater* scarcely ever reaches more than half its natural bulk, and in Scilly the ordinary specimens of *Calathus melanocephalus* and *Olisthopus rotundatus* are diminutively small. *Vanessa Callirhoë*, a species nearly allied to our Red Admiral, is permanently smaller in the island of Porto Santo than it is on the larger, more luxuriant and varied, and therefore more protected, island of Madeira proper. Sometimes, however, the very converse takes place; for there is a curious tendency in most islands that the wings of their insect inhabitants are liable to be retarded in their development, and often become evanescent: now when any particular organ is either stunted or taken away the creature receives a compensation for its loss, either by the undue enlargement of some other one or else in a general increase of bulk: thus in Madeira *Bradycellus fulvus* is a trifle more robust than its ordinary European representations, and *it is invariably apterous*.

The above epitome will suffice to assure our readers that the subject does not lose in interest by Mr. Wollaston's mode of treatment, and our space forbids us to give further details at present.

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MISCELLANEA.

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NOTES AND QUERIES, BY J. O. WESTWOOD, ESQ.

*Berry-borer.*—At this season of the year half-grown gooseberries are occasionally gnawed by the larva of some Lepidopterous insect, which is known amongst horticulturists under the name of the "berry-borer." I believe it is most common in the northern counties, but that perhaps is not really the case,

only, from the great number of gooseberry farmers, it is probably oftener observed, especially as I am informed that it seems by preference to select those berries which are undergoing the process of "suckling," as it is termed, to prepare them for the gooseberry shows. Can any of your subscribers inform me what this larva is? and can they send us specimens of it in the living state?

*Unknown Lepidopterous Larva* (p. 59).—I am sorry that the printer's devil of the 'Gardener's Chronicle' has led you into a mistake. The fact is, the larva alluded to, in p. 59, as burrowing beneath the bark of young oak trees is a myth. The larva in question is that of *Prays Curtisellus* (p. 63), but the answer to the correspondent's query was sent at the last moment, and too late to allow a proof to be sent, and, with the usual ingenuity of printers' devils, the word ash (written perhaps hurriedly) was printed oak.—J. O. W.; *June 2, 1856.*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The Rev. Joseph Greene removes on the 10th inst. to Playford, Ipswich. All letters to be addressed to him there.

**M**OUNTED POCKET LENSES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF INSECTS; at 1s., 1s. 6d., 3s., 4s., 5s. 6d.; 4d. extra by post, safely packed: of F. T. HUDSON, Optician, 19, Stockwell Street, Greenwich, Kent.

*Price 1s.*

**T**HE ZOOLOGIST: A POPULAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The Number for June contains several important Entomological Papers.

London: John Van Voorst.

*Price 3s.,*

**P**RACTICAL HINTS RESPECTING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES; with Notices of their Localities, forming a Calendar of Entomological Operations throughout the Year in pursuit of Lepidoptera.

By RICHARD SHIELD.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

*Price Half-a-Crown,*

**T**HE ENTOMOLOGIST'S ANNUAL FOR 1856.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

*Just out, price 3s.,*

**JUNE:**

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY IN SUMMER TIME.

By H. T. STANTON.

"Chatty, picturesque and true."—*News of the World.*

"Likely to interest the young who are naturalists *in esse* or *in posse*."—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans.

*Price 3s. 6d.*

**T**HE WORLD OF INSECTS; A GUIDE TO ITS WONDERS.

By J. W. DOUGLAS,

Secretary to the Entomological Society of London.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 11.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## SCIENTIFIC CONVIVIALITIES.

AMONG the pleasures of Science may be counted many things which are not in themselves purely scientific: for instance, many friendships spring out of a similarity of scientific tastes. It would be curious to note how the friendships of scientific people frequently originate in curious chance *rencontres*. Perhaps the occasional excursions of a learned society contribute more than any other scheme ever propounded to bring about such meetings, and it is partly on this account that to share in the excursions of *savans* is to the young one of the greatest treats they can have. To see the elderly professor, or the middle-aged hard-working man of science, unbending on such occasions, putting aside his mantle of learning and —ologies, indulging in some merriment, which to the uninitiated must appear at first a somewhat undignified proceeding, and cracking his jokes at each of the party, is a sight which many juveniles who have once seen will not easily forget.

Friendships do not always spring up between those of the same age; and twenty, or even thirty years of difference in age, is sometimes found not incompatible with an enduring and intimate friendship.

On Saturday next, the 21st instant,

an excursion of entomologists to Reigate will take place. Mr. Saunders, the worthy President of the Entomological Society of London, has invited the members of the Society to a cold collation at the Swan Hotel, Reigate, on that day, and previous to the refreshing of the inner man the entomologists will perambulate the heaths, downs and woods in the neighbourhood, to the no small dismay of the Lepidoptera and Coleoptera there.

Trains leave London for the Reigate Town Station at 9.30 A. M., and 1.35, and 3.45 P. M., and no doubt many parties, little elusters as it were of entomologists, will go by each of those trains, and their further movements when they arrive at Reigate will be decided by their respective partialities for bees, bugs, beetles or butterflies.

Mr. Brewer will be in as great request as ever Figaro was, for independent of his local knowledge, knowing where there is a good sand-pit and where there is a nice eosey hedge, his botanical lore will be in great demand, for is he not the author of 'The New Flora of Reigate?' and will not that alone cause him to be continually having six questions simultaneously put to him? and perhaps some droll mishaps will accrue from the questioners applying the wrong answers to themselves and acting accordingly.

It may be possible that the President

has overlooked some entomologist who would wish to join the party; if so, we hope any individual who wishes to join the excursion will communicate with us, and will not be incensed at his not having already received an invitation. "Accidents will occur to the steadiest of men," and the omission to invite some distinguished individual may have been quite accidental; therefore the omitted will act wisely to apply to us.

We remember a curious instance of accidental omission which occurred to the editor of 'The Entomologist's Annual': in compiling the list of entomologists, the name of a distinguished votary of entomological science was accidentally omitted; here *was* an offence; the injured party was highly indignant, and wrote to all his friends to complain of the slight put upon him, fearing, no doubt, that the revising barristers and agents would be chuckling at his name having been expunged from the register.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 3s. 6d. in postage stamps.

All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

N.B.—MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, June 18th, nor on Wednesday, June 25th.

MR. STANTON will be at home on Wednesday, July 2, as usual.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. W. P.—*Cyenia mendica* will no doubt feed on the species of mint (*Mentha*), willow-herb (*Epilobium*), or other plants growing by the sides of ditches.

J. O.—You can buy *Daptidice*, *Antiopa* and *Dispar*, if you are not particular about their being British; there are no British specimens on sale.

A BEGINNER.—We cannot name your larvæ; but as they seem to be spinning up we will let you know to what they change.

W. W.—*P. falcula* larva feeds on birch, alder, oak, &c.; *P. hamula* on oak and birch: change in a cocoon between leaves.

T. F. W.—Your Fritillary larvæ probably fed on some low-growing plant near the grass on which you found them; they are not known to eat grass.

W. B.—What are the markings on the under side of your butterfly which resembles *P. Alexis*? Refer to the Table in the 'Manual,' and say in which section of the genus you would place it. *Euphrosyne* is apt to vary. In *Dia* the ground-colour of the under side of hind-wing is violet, and there are three or four silvery spots along the centre. You will probably find many who want *Artemis*; it is a local insect. Write to some offerer

of duplicates, saying what you want, and let him know what *you* have to part with.

R. W.—Your ease-bearers are, to the best of our knowledge, not Lepidopterous.

J. J. R.—Your gregarious larvæ are *Clisiocampa Neustria* and *Hyponomeuta padellus*. The green nettle-feeder we do not know.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

*Acronycta auricoma* (LEP.).—This insect has again been taken at sugar near Tenterden.—H. T. STAINTON; June 11, 1856.

*Diptera Orion* (LEP.).—On the 24th of May I bred a specimen of this insect, from a pupa I picked up in a meadow here. A friend of mine also took a specimen on the trunk of a tree last year.—J. PRISTO, *Alverstone, Whippingham, Isle of Wight*; June 9, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera*.—During the last week I have had the good fortune to take *Lasiocampa Rubi*, *Melitæa Cinxia* and *Artemis*, *Argynnis Euphrosync*, *Thecla Rubi*, *Thymelic Alveolus*, *Thanaos Tages*, *Arctia Villica* and *Polyommatus Argiolus*. I shall be happy to supply any one in want of *A. Euphrosync* and *M. Artemis* while my stock lasts.—W. BUCKLER, *Lunley Cottage, Emsworth*; June 10, 1856.

*Polia Herbida* (LEP.).—Last evening I captured upwards of thirty specimens of the above at sugar, together with *Thyatira Batis*, *Euplexia lucipara*, &c.—T. F., W.

*Demas Coryli*.—Late in the autumn of 1855 I found the caterpillar of *Demas Coryli*, which produced a fine moth a few days ago: it underwent the change into the pupa state in the interior of a leaf: the larva drawing the exterior of the leaf together.—IBID.

*Cloantha conspiciellaris* (LEP.).—I had

a very successful afternoon yesterday, June 2nd, as I hope was the case with every other British entomologist. It was indeed, of itself, a day to make all creation happy. My principal capture was *C. conspiciellaris*, a fine female that had never flown, at rest on an oak: I looked for her to lay me some eggs, but she seemed to think she had done enough in presenting me with her person. I took her three miles from Worcester, and intend to-night to try the attraction of sugar on her intended consort.—E. HORTON, *Lower Wick, Worcester*; June 3, 1856.

*Captures of rare Tortrices at Wickham*.—I took a fine specimen of *Phoxopteryx Upana* at Wickham on the 29th ult., and one of *Retinia turionana* at the same place yesterday.—J. WILDMAN, *Grove Place, Camberwell*; June 5, 1856.

*Lepidoptera Wanted*.—As a young collector, I should feel exceedingly obliged if any of your readers will favour me with specimens, or a specimen, of any of the following, viz. *P. Machaon*, *P. Cratægi*, *Colias Edusa* or *A. villica*, and if there is anything in this neighbourhood that I can give them in return I shall be happy to do so. I may add, that since my name appeared in the 'Annual,' I have had several letters, making me offers of assistance, and then, in a post-script, asking if I had so and so to spare, when, finding I could do little for them, I have heard nothing more of them or the insects. One honourable exception there is to this line of conduct; Mr. Rodgers, of Rotherham, had scarcely made me the offer than he despatched me a box. As a botanist of eighteen years standing, I can safely say that this is not the way in which plant-collectors treat each other.—WILLIAM HARRISON, *Gardener, Model Prison, Walton, near Liverpool*; June 7, 1856.

[We are much concerned to hear the grave accusation of hard-hearted greed-

ness made by our correspondent, and feel almost disposed to exclaim with Iago, "Impossible; there can be no such man." If the case be really as stated, it might be desirable to publish a list of the greedy entomologists who bring their calling into disrepute. Vermin should be nailed to the barn-door.]

*Bucculatrix maritima* (LEP.) bred.—The cocoons mentioned at p. 62 have produced this species. This is one of the most important discoveries of the season.—H. T. STANTON; June 11, 1856.

*Coleophora of the Thistle*.—Again I have been shown a thistle-leaf eaten by a *Colcophora*, or perhaps by the ghost of one. For the case or larva that makes the blotches I have never seen. Can no one find it? This thistle-leaf was found at Darenth by Mr. Miller.—IBID.

*Eggs of Testudo* (LEP.).—Can any of your readers in the southern counties inform me what the eggs of *Limacodes Testudo* are like? Are they spherical and ribbed, like those of the Noctuidæ? globular and pearly, like the eggs of the Sphingidæ and Arctiidæ? oblong and somewhat depressed, like those of the Bombycidæ and Geometridæ? circular and slightly convex, like the top of a mushroom, as in the Notodontidæ? flat and scale-like, as in the Tortricæ? or have they a peculiar form of their own, like some of the other minor groups?—R. F. LOGAN, Duddingston, Edinburgh; June 9, 1856.

*Sesia bombyliiformis* (LEP.) in Scotland.—As I am not aware that *Sesia bombyliiformis* (Fab.), is recorded as occurring north of Cambridgeshire, I may state that three specimens of this species were captured last week at Dunoon, Argyleshire; two on May 27th, and one on May 31st. The last caught specimen I saw alive: it was a very fine one; expanse of wings  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch. They were taken by two gardeners, one of whom, Mr. Tainsh, showed me a specimen of the same species he had taken in Argyle-

shire in the year 1852. I also have one specimen taken in this neighbourhood some years ago.—THOMAS CHAPMAN, Glasgow; June 2, 1856.

In the autumn of 1852 I may mention that five specimens of *Colias Edusa* were taken near the coast of Ayrshire, two of which were taken by Mr. Tainsh and one by myself near Largs, which was the most northern locality. I am not aware that it has been seen since.—IBID.

*Coleophora Aleyonipennella* (LEP.).—I went last night to collect the larvæ of this insect, and secured about 100 cases of full-fed larvæ, only one of which, however, was made up. Should any one want them I shall be glad to hear from him.—C. S. GREGSON, Edge Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool; June 3, 1856.

*Minute Coleoptera*.—I have bred a lot of minute Coleoptera from Fungi, so small that I cannot name them: they are at the service of any to whom they would be useful.—IBID.

*Captures of Coleoptera*.—I have lately taken

*Necrophorus vespillo*,  
 „ *vestigator*,  
*Oicoptoma thoracica*,  
 „ *rugosa*,  
 „ —?

under a dead rabbit at Newstead, Notts; and at the Coppice, Nottingham, *Sinodendron cylindricum* in the stump of an old pear tree; of this latter I have some spare specimens, which I should be happy to send to any one to whom it is a desideratum.—WILLIAM ALLEN, Western Terrace, The Park, Nottingham; June 9, 1856.

*Scarce Coleoptera taken*.—Mr. George Harding, jun., Stapleton, near Bristol, writes to me that he is now taking *Biphyllus lunatus*, in some numbers, in Fungi on ash trees, and that he will be happy to send some to any entomologist who may want them. From the same Fungi he has recently taken *Platyrhinus latirostris*, and from dead beech trees

*Endomychus coccineus*.—J. W. DOUGLAS, Lee; June 11, 1856.

*Importation of Coleoptera*.—On the 19th ult., whilst examining some bales of wool just imported in the "Ipswich" from Buenos Ayres, I found between the canvas and wool a number of specimens of *Necrobia ruficollis* and *rufipes*, also *Dermestes vulpinus*: of the latter species there were both larvæ and pupæ, as well as the perfect insect. The principal part of the cargo consisted of hides and bones: though these species are, I suppose, indigenous to this country, may not many species have been introduced in a similar manner?—N. COOKE, Liverpool; June 3, 1856.

*Remarks on the Leader in No. 8 of the 'Intelligencer.'*—*English Names*.—By all means throw them over-board; but in doing so offer some means to extricate the many who have not had the opportunity afforded them of studying the Latin and other languages, whence the scientific names have been derived, from falling into the error of placing the accent on the wrong syllable; of sound the *g's* soft where they should be hard, and *vice versâ*. Other letters and terminations of words cause also trouble; as for example, how often do we hear *brassicæ* pronounced *brassika*: and yet a step further, how very acceptable, both to the learned and unlearned, would a little dictionary of the meanings of the words used be. Perhaps these hints may induce some friend to come forward and execute the task. At present I will place it also among the "things hoped for." I confess my ignorance of the meaning of the word "*Lithocolletis*;" and we ought no longer to go about with a stone round our necks.—JOHN SCOTT, South Stockton; May 26, 1856.

*Ichneumonidæ*.—If those entomologists who may be so unfortunate as to breed any of these pests would send either them or the caterpillars to me I should be greatly obliged, and be very glad to

remit any postal expenses incurred in the transit. Any observations with regard to the number of Ichneumons in each larva, the time of appearing, the probable age of the caterpillar at the time it came into the owner's possession, and also the pupæ-cases and cocoons of the Ichneumons, would be a welcome addition to the insects themselves.—R. H. STRETCH, 3, Parsons Street, Banbury; June 3, 1856.

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR JUNE.

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COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—I wish also to call attention to fungi, especially to those growing on trees, which feed many scarce insects, some of which are very pretty; indeed, it has always seemed to me that there is a neatness and cleanliness about these fungus-eaters that is very interesting. There is a circumstance pertaining to them that gives a zest to the search, and that is, that when you do find them there is generally a lot of them together. *Triphyllus*, *Mycetophagus*, *Triplax*, *Engis*, *Ptomophagus*, *Scaphidium*, *Scaphisoma*, *Leiodes*, *Orchesia*, *Bolitophagus*, *Diaperis*, *Endomychus*, *Bolitobius*, *Bolitochara* and many other *Brachelytra*, with several other genera, may be expected to occur in *Fungi*. In the West of England *Platyrhinus latirostris* is found in *Sphæria fraxinea*, a fungus growing on ash trees. June is a capital time to hunt for the bark and fungus dwellers.—J. W. D.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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To the Editor of the 'Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer.'

SIR,—As I suppose I am the author alluded to by the correspondent who fur-

nished the paper headed 'Errors of Observation,' in the last number of the 'Intelligencer,' as having fallen into the "error" of "drawing a conclusion from unsuitable observation," I trust I may be permitted to say a few words in self-defence.

My books are at present packed up, so that I cannot refer to my *printed* remarks on pupa-digging; but, on looking over the MS., I find these preliminary observations, which, if I mistake not, were also published:—"Whenever, in the following remarks, any statement is made as to certain circumstances being uncommon, usual or invariable, I wish it to be distinctly understood that they are so merely as far as my own personal experience goes."

When, therefore, I used the "dictum," "as to hedge-rows, it is no use trying them," I simply gave that as my opinion, based "on my own personal experience." Your correspondent adds, "the error in this case . . . . the information sought to be given was the comparative value of different localities for pupæ; and the only observations from which such an inference could justly be drawn would have been those in which each locality had its equal share of attention, *which in this case it evidently had not.*" Permit me to ask your correspondent, on what he grounds the assertion conveyed in the words I have italicised? The reasonable and obvious conclusion, as it appears to me, to draw from so distinct and positive a statement, on my part, would be, that I *had* given sufficient observation. However this may be, such is the *fact*. I have very often tried hedge-rows, and it was not till after repeated failures that I ventured to give it as my opinion that it was useless to try them. That opinion (confining myself of course to my own personal experience) I reiterate. I have made the attempt several times this year, but with the same want of success, and I have never been so fortunate as to find

a single pupa in such localities. A friend of your correspondent, it appears, remarked during the reading of my paper, "I know some people who get numbers of pupæ from hedge-rows." Will that friend kindly publish in your columns some information as to the "modus operandi," *i. e.* what implement is necessary? what part of the hedge-row is the best? and what insects have been thus taken? I should feel really much obliged for some information on these points.

With the bitter your correspondent mingles a little of the sweet, and I feel much gratified by the statement that my paper has given an impetus to pupa-collecting. It had already struck me, in reading the 'Intelligencer,' that this mode of collecting was more pursued than formerly, and I had hoped that my observations had, in some measure, contributed to bring it about. I need only mention the capture (as recorded in different numbers of the 'Intelligencer') of four such insects as *Conspicillaris*, *Fluctuosa*, *Bicuspis* and *Ilicifolia* in this way, to prove that it is one of the very best methods of capturing Lepidoptera. I hope, ere long, to communicate a few more "hints" as to pupa-digging, but I must make one observation here: Mr. Shield, in his work 'Practical Hints,' remarks (p. 134), "The tyro who may wish to diversify his employment may profitably do so by pupa-digging; the latter half of this month (July) is the best time for this operation, as by then the greater part of our spring and summer feeding larvæ will have arrived at the pupa state," &c.

I must venture to dissent from this statement, the period stated being, in my opinion, a fortnight *too soon*. Certainly *some* pupæ will be found, but you will much more frequently turn up the *larvæ*, before they have changed, and the gain of the former will, in general, but poorly compensate the loss of the latter.

Playford, Ipswich. J. GREENE.



FRAGMENT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN LARVÆ OF CHAULIODUS ILLIGERELLUS AND COLEOPHORA SERENELLA.

SCENE: Darenth Wood.

*Illigerellus.* So I suppose we mustn't hope to escape much longer.

*Serenella.* How is that? I have no fear.

*Illig.* Then it's time you had, I can tell you: haven't you seen the 'Intelligencer?'

*Seren.* No; but what if I had? No one in England ever looks for an insect till it has been found: so as I've not been found yet, I'm not afraid of being looked for.

*Illig.* Well, to be sure you have that consolation; and though they knew that I occurred here in the perfect state, no one ever thought of looking for me as larva, though goodness knows I am far easier to find now than I shall be a month hence. I wish I was safely in pupa.

*Seren.* I'm sorry to hear you are so timid. If—

*Illig.* Timid indeed! Now just listeu to what I heard was in the 'Intelligencer' the other day: entomologists are told "to look for the Gout-weed, and that the leaf stems will be observed to be contorted or 'crumpled up,' and that the cause of this is a sticky-looking caterpillar." That's me, you know; and I declare they may well call me *sticky*, for I've been in a cold perspiration ever since I heard that was published.

*Seren.* Well, that is too bad: but of course nothing is said about me.

*Illig.* Don't flatter yourself: listen—" *Coleophora serenella* feeds on the leaves of the wild liquorice, or sweet milkvetch, and makes very conspicuous, because very white blotches, in the leaves of the plant: the singular whitish puckered ease of the larva has loose whitish flounces . . . ."

*Seren.* Good gracious! you don't say that's in print.

*Illig.* Indeed but it is.

*Seren.* Well, I'm a gone 'coon. People can't help finding me now.

*Illig.* I thought you were taking matters rather easily before.

*Seren.* But however does it happen that they know what to look for, as I never have been found here?

*Illig.* Oh! they've picked up the information abroad. I'm told there's a fellow at Frankfort, one Schmid, who sends over caterpillars every week all alive and kicking.

*Seren.* You don't say so!

*Illig.* But it's true though; and the other day I saw your brother *Ochrea* laughing in his sleeve, in his case I mean, and he said as you do, that he was all safe till somebody had found him.

*Seren.* Well, what then?

*Illig.* Why last week this Schmid sends over living larvæ of *Ochrea*, with their cases all complete.

*Seren.* Ah! then I see we shan't have as easy times in future as we used to have. But do they persecute the *Tortrices* and the *Noctua* and *Bombyces* in the same way?

*Illig.* Not at present; but I hear the evil is a growing one, and I fear before long, we shall find that the English will look for the different species before they have been found, instead of only doing so after some accident has led to a discovery.

#### SCIENCE AT A DISCOUNT.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Heywood brought forward his motion in the House of Commons "for a select committee to inquire what further measures could be adopted to advance Science and to improve the position of its cultivators." During the progress of the debate on so interesting a subject it was with the greatest difficulty "a House" could be

maintained; there were no less than four attempts at a "count out"! And yet we express our surprise at the proceedings of the American legislature!

Lord Stanley spoke with his usual good sense, and suggested, as the motion was at present too vaguely worded, it would be better for Mr. Heywood to consult eminent scientific men as to the nature of the Government patronage they desired and then, having digested the subject, to reintroduce it to Parliament next session.

Lord Palmerston was jocose in alluding to the working of corporate bodies in reference to intellectual pursuits, as, he observed, "diversities of opinion sprang up among them, which frequently operated injuriously rather than beneficially."

Any one would fancy Lord Palmerston had been behind the scenes in entomological circles.

*Porrectaria versus Coleophora.*—I am quite aware that Haworth's genus *Porrectaria* included some insects which have subsequently been detached and formed into the genus *Butalis*; but that is no reason why Haworth's name should be thrown aside: if it were, there is scarcely a single Linnean or Fabrician generic name which could be retained; in fact, to carry the principle out, the separation of a single species would necessarily sink any genus. This would be so great an inconvenience that it is not to be supposed that zoological nomenclaturists have not foreseen and provided against the difficulty. We have, in all such cases, to ascertain, if possible, what was the intention of the original proposer of a genus, and to discover what was his type; and if no express type has been mentioned, the general rule is to select the species which he placed at the head of his genus, and regard that as his type. In *Porrectaria*, however, no such difficulty exists, Haworth having clearly enough indicated what he meant to con-

sider as the type of his genus,—namely, those narrow-winged Tineæ which sit with their antennæ porrected in a straight line before them, the base of those organs sealy, the larvæ enclosed in a moveable case, and the pupæ with the wing and leg-eases extending beyond the extremity of the body. Such are his characters; so there is no question that the insects he had in view were the *Coleophora* of German and modern English Micro-Lepidopterists. In such cases, I repeat, that the name of *Porrectaria* ought to be retained, and I have no doubt that if the proposer of the *Coleophora* had been acquainted with the writings of Haworth he would have adopted Haworth's name.—J. O. WESTWOOD, *Hammersmith*; *June 1856.*

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, June 14, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 12.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## THE LONGEST DAY.

THE longest day is not long enough for the eager entomologist: he has to be all eyes, and wants to be in all places at once.

M. Bellier de la Chavignerie, when collecting in the Alps last summer, used to be at it from 5 A. M. to 10 P. M., and then used to be so far knocked up as to be unwilling to set out *all* his captures; yet some must be set out, and as the period for excursions is generally very limited, there is a fierce struggle continually going on to catch as much as possible, and at the same time to set out the best of everything caught.

Returning tired and weary after a long day's ramble, well sun-burnt, and badly gnat-bitten, the entomologist has to preserve an even serenity of temper, so as to keep his hand perfectly steady, that he may pin without injuring it some rare preciousity.

Now one great difficulty arises from the simultaneous appearance of so many different species: the last ten days of June, and the first ten days of July, nearly half the whole number of our species of insects are to be met with.

Does it not stand to reason that the entomologist to get on, to make some real progress, more than a mere jumble of caught specimens, must restrict his energies to particular groups, not attempting to do everything?

The collector who devoted his attention exclusively to the Clear-wings or to the Prominents would find, at the close of the season, a more satisfactory result, an acquisition of a real tangible amount of knowledge very different from the uncertain unsatisfactory result which is but too frequently the concomitant of the ordinary go-a-head, catch-all-you-can, (never minding if you *learn* nothing), style of collecting. In point of fact we know it is *impossible* to do everything; by trying to do too much we may ensure that all that is done shall be badly done.

We are not wishing to preach to our older readers, but we know that we have a large proportion of the *rising* generation among our readers; and to those who naturally look up to the more advanced with a feeling of reverence and awe, and who fancy in order to excel in the race the only way is to run with all their speed, it may not be altogether useless to remind them that a little well done is better than a far greater quantity ill done.

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## COMMUNICATIONS.

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MR. STANTON will not be at home on June 25th. On Wednesday, July 2nd, he will be at home as usual.

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## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several communications.*

*Vanessa Antiopa at Norwood.*—Having read of only one capture of *V. Antiopa* this year it may not be uninteresting to the readers of the 'Intelligencer' to state that I captured a very fine specimen on Sunday, the 9th of September of last year, on *Carduus lanceolatus* at Norwood. — GEORGE SIGGS, 1, Bedford Street, Walworth; June 14, 1856.

*Thanaos Tages and Thymele Alveolus.* — The attention of our Harrovian collectors has been attracted during the last week or two by an almost incredible number of *T. Tages* frequenting the banks of the railway, and many and frequent have been the sallies made against them. The little *Alveolus* kept it company, though very sparingly, (about one perhaps to every fifty of the larger skipper). The short day of the latter seems already quite ended, whilst the *Tages* still continues abundant.—A. PRETOR, Harrow-on-the-Hill; June 16, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Scarborough.*—Yesterday I met with *Hadena Cucubali* at Scarborough Mere, and to-day from the rocks near Scarborough I obtained a fine specimen of *Acherontia Atropos*.—T. H. LANGCAKE, 24, Merchant's Row, Scarborough; June 13, 1856.

*Let no more apply.*—I shall not have duplicates enough of *Lucina* and *Alsus* to supply any more applications than I have now received: I hope in the course of a week or two to send some off to the whole of those who have now written. I get them at a place twenty-four miles from Bristol, so that I hope my friends will excuse a little delay.—ARTHUR NAISH, Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill; June 11, 1856.

*Luperina Albicolar.*—Whilst upon the Lancashire sand-hills, on the 6th inst., with Mr. Greening, we captured above twenty good specimens of this insect.—

C. S. GREGSON, *Old Swan, Lancashire*; June 9, 1856.

*Captures last week at West Wickham.*—The following are the most important:—*Capua ochraceana*, *Phoxopteryx Upupana*, *Uncana* and *Ramana*, *Cryptoblates bistriga*, *Tinea bistrigella*, *Gracilaria auroguttella* and *Elachista ochrella*. Larvæ:—*Trichiura Crategi*, *Pæcilocampa Populi* and *Hipparchus papilionarius*.—WILLIAM MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End*; June 11, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Deal.*—On the sand-hills here I have taken five *Argyrolepis maritima*; they are far from common: also the first brood of *Aspilates citraria*. On the hills near Dover I took *Melitæa Cinxia* in some plenty in company with the merry little *P. Alsus*. The larvæ of *Depressaria Alstræmeriana* are very much engaged among the hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and the *Eupatoria Cannabinum* will supply a good stock of *Coleophora Troglodytella*. The larvæ of *Depressaria nanatella* are here in the leaves of the Carline thistle, and the pupæ of *Parasia Carlinella* in the heads of the same plant.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal, Kent* (for the next three months); June 7, 1856.

*Food of Lasioecampa Trifolii.*—Seeing in the 'Intelligencer' of June 7th a communication from a correspondent that larvæ of *Lasioecampa Trifolii* would not touch either trefoil or plantain; they are, however, much more condescending in this neighbourhood; they don't appear to be in the least particular, as the following list of articles of their diet will show, viz., white and red trefoil, bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus coniculatus*), various species of grass, young furze-shoots, bramble, plantain; these are what I find them on and feeding upon in the natural state, and they eat, in confinement, all those plants just mentioned, with these additions, oak, beech, ash, poplar, willow, whitethorn and blackthorn:

either of the plants above-mentioned are eaten by the larvæ with a good will—whichever is nearest; they don't select; in short, they show no preference whatever.—J. J. READING, *Plymouth*; June 17, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Tenterden.*—In Birch Wood yesterday, by beating underwood, I took *Macaria notataria* and *Melanippe hastaria*; *Melitæa Athalia* has again appeared: should any one be in want of specimens of *Athalia* I shall be happy to send some as long as my supply lasts.—S. C. TRESS BEALE, *Tenterden, Kent*; June 17, 1856.

*Orgyia gonostigma.*—I had the good fortune to find on the 8th inst. and three following days, twenty-four larvæ of *O. gonostigma* feeding on oak; some of them spun up on the 13th, so that I was just in time for them: should I breed them, of which I have no doubt, I shall endeavour to make the females useful in attracting me some males.—WILLIAM KIRBY, *South Street, Wandsworth, Surrey*; June 17, 1856.

*Agdistes Bennetti* (LEP.).—The pupa which I exhibited at the last meeting of the Society has produced this insect. I have also bred three others. I find they only remain twelve to fourteen days in pupa.—SAMUEL STEVENS, 24, *Bloomsbury Street*.

*Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa.*—This plant suddenly finds itself "the admired of all admirers," and graciously unfolds new charms to each fresh worshipper: the fierce scrutiny it has yet to undergo in the Alps will probably bring many novelties to light. In the forest at Glogau Professor Zeller has already devoted several hours to the investigation of its tenants, and has collected there

♂ *Lithocolletis Vacciniella*,

*Nepticula Weaveri*,

two species of *Coleophora* cases, and in the young shoots larvæ which he anticipates will prove those of *Depressaria impurella*. He has also bred *Sericoris*

*Charpentierana* from pupæ found in the top shoots. The Lancashire collectors will do well to look at the plant again. I should be very glad of a supply of the summer brood of the larvæ of *L. Vacciniella* and *N. Weaveri*, in order to forward some to Professor Frey.—H. T. STAINTON; June 14, 1856.

*Coleophora larvæ on Thistles*.—Referring to your note in last week's 'Intelligencer,' I beg to say that these ghosts have a corporeal existence, as I have found several feeding: they have now left the plant, and attached themselves to the side of the flower-pot, so that I hope they are pupæ; but unless my luck be better than usual they will not reach the imago state.—G. M. SALT, Shrewsbury; June 17, 1856.

*Bucculatrix Boyerella* (LEP.).—I have taken this insect freely. Does any one want it?—IBID.

*Elachista adscitella* (LEP.).—I have just bred this from Mr. Scott's larvæ of the *Sesleria carulea*.—H. T. STAINTON; June 19, 1856.

*Larva on Mustard*.—I am now rearing a larva which I conclude to belong to the Tineina: it is a very light yellow (almost white), with a black head: I found it on the petals of *Sinapis Alba*. If you could tell me what it is from my description I should be much obliged; if not perhaps some of your readers could tell me.—E. G. CLAYTON, 125, Eastern Road, Brighton; June 16, 1856.

[We do not recognise the larva; perhaps we might be able to say something positively if we saw it.]

*Why do Lepidoptera recently hatched hang their wings downwards?*—I had yesterday the opportunity of completing the observation I mentioned in my last, p. 60. I found a specimen of *Nepticala trimaculata*, which had evidently emerged from the chrysalis but a short time before, sitting on the sand in a horizontal position. I watched it attentively for ten or fifteen minutes, during which

time the wings and cilia gradually spread out, and then it suddenly shook its wings and threw them up perpendicularly over its back. It now remains to explain the reason, which I confess I cannot: the whole process seems so dissimilar to that which obtains among the Macro-Lepidoptera: even in the filling out of the wings there was none of the wrinkling which is usual among larger insects, but they seemed to grow.—T. BOYD, 17, Clapton Square; May 10, 1856.

*Westwood and Humphrey wanted*.—I am in want of a cheap copy of this work, and should be glad to hear from any one who has it to dispose of, stating price, &c.—G. J. BOSTOCK, York Place, Bideford; June 14, 1856.

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR JUNE.

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COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—Now, when every clod, pool and leaf teems with insect-life, and chance as much as skill may bestow a rarity upon a collector, it seems superfluous to say anything which might restrict his attention in any way; yet it may not be amiss to tell some of our younger collectors that June is their harvest time. Flowers in and at the sides of woods, *Umbelliferae* especially, are now rich in beetles, especially in *Longicornes*. *Lepidura sexguttata* is all but extinct at Darent Wood, but I presume is still to be taken in some of the other Kentish woods where there are old trees: I once took about twenty on some dwarf *Umbelliferae* in the New Forest in June, and now I have not a single specimen, so that I should be glad of one if any person is fortunate enough to take the species; but I fear it is rather late to set about looking for it. The long-horned lovers of flowers fly in the sunshine, and may often be seen settling or sitting on their favourites, and in dull weather may

be beat or hrushed from them. Beating and brushing trees, bushes and hedges, are now *the* grand modes of capturing; don't stop to select, but put the lot into a bottle of laurel-leaves cut small, and there they will keep for a week, or more, until you have leisure to attend to them, and be all the better for keeping. Elder bloom on the coast should be well looked after for the chance of taking the rare *Elater*, *Athoüs Campyloides*. Sweeping in woods and on banks will give hosts of species, *Drilus flavescens* among them, besides *Cryptocephali*, *Chrysomelidæ*, *Galerucidæ*, &c.; and if you find a dead beast, large or small, don't turn up your nose at it, though it may not smell like flowers, but examine it carefully; it is a dainty morsel to many a fellow-creature. Nor is any spot to be lightly passed over: grass, clods and stones, the latter especially, if near ant's-nests, should be carefully scanned; and to make a long story short, in the words of the late Abel Ingpen, "search everywhere."—J. W. D.

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MISCELLANEA.

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REVIVIFYING INFLUENCE OF THE 'INTELLIGENCER' ON LATENT ENTOMOLOGISTS.

Dear Sir,—Encouraged by what I read in the 'Entomologist's Annual,'—I am induced to write to you to ask a few favours. I have been collecting insects for the last three years, and I had no idea that there was such a regular system of communicating between entomologists as I am much pleased to find there is, and I eventually got tired of collecting and parted with my collection (my head-quarters for collecting being the New Forest); but I lately took in the 'Weekly Intelligencer,' and from what I read there I am induced to recommence collecting on a different style altogether.

A. C. D.

Southampton,

June 13, 1856.

Dear Sir,—From what I have seen of your writings I am led to suppose that any one seeking knowledge (especially one like myself, an ardent admirer of Nature,) may safely unfold his shortcomings to you without fear of ridicule. Entomology has occupied a great deal of my spare time for several years, yet I am in a dreadful state of ignorance on some points, arising chiefly from my isolated position, never having had the happiness to meet with any one who knew more, if so much, as myself. Thanks to your 'Annual,' I think I have now gained a good starting-point, which I shall endeavour to make the best of.

Chippenham, Newmarket, E. W.

June 13, 1856.

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NEW DEVICE FOR SENDING INSECTS SAFELY BY POST.—Mr. Norcombe has hit upon a very ingenious plan, yet one so simple that every one will wonder why it was never thought of before. What is it that damages insects sent by post? The stamping being applied to the top and bottom of the box. Can nothing be done to lessen or remove this evil? Already those who forward larvæ by post had found the advantage of so rolling up the little tins that the direction should not be on the flat top or bottom of the tin, but on the curved side; the post office is obliged to stamp where the direction and postage stamp are; hence instead of squashing in the top or bottom of the tin, as used formerly to be the case, they now stamp on the curved side of the tin, where of course a good blow excites little apprehensions among the larvæ within. Mr. Norcombe improves still further by having the direction and stamp on a piece of parchment waggling quite free from the box; of course the post-office authorities duly stamp the parchment on both sides, but let the box alone. How simple, yet how useful! How many broken legs and heads might

not this have saved if it had been earlier known!

MORE EXPOSURES.—I can confirm Mr. Harrison's statement as to the greediness of some entomologists from my own experience. I received a letter in January last making me offers of assistance, then in a postscript asking for several insects, *S. Bombyliiformis*, *T. Cratagi*, &c. I wrote I hope and think a polite answer, regretting that I had none of the insects he asked for, but saying that at the end of the season I would send him a list of duplicates, and at the same time mentioning some insects I should be glad of. I have never heard of this gentleman from that day to this.—E. A. H.

SHOULD THE 'INTELLIGENCER' BE PUBLISHED THROUGH THE WINTER?—You will perhaps consider me out of place in writing to you as the editor of the 'Entomologist's Intelligencer,' suggesting, if you think proper, something for the consideration of your readers, viz., that they take all they can of any rare or local insect; and if possible that the 'Weekly Intelligencer' be published during the winter months, instead of taking a long nap till roused by the bright days of a returning spring; I think there never need be lack of matter for so interesting, and to the entomologist so useful, a publication. If it should be continued it will enable those who, like myself (you see man is a selfish brute), have but little time to spare for the pursuit, and that little ought now to be spent in the field. When dreary winter comes and the net is laid aside, the spare time may be well employed in corresponding through the medium of your pages as to the result of the past season and as to what duplicates are on hand, the advantage of which I think will be

reciprocal, and tend much to the improvement of our cabinets.—C. E. BRYDGES, 4, *Priory Terrace, Cheltenham*; June 16, 1856.

[We shall be glad to receive further suggestions on this subject: our own impression is that the 'Intelligencer' should hibernate for six months, and then start again in the spring with renewed vigour.]

#### THE END OF TERMINELLA.

##### *A True Story.*

"Every thing has an end" says the proverb; but *the end of Terminella* was a very sad one, therefore we relate it; but to begin at the beginning.

#### CHAPTER I.

Once upon a time Mr. Weir went into Sussex to visit his relations there: on his return he exhibited to his admiring entomological friends a lovely little moth which reflected nearly all the colours of the rainbow; he had only taken a single specimen of it, and had fortunately set it out very nicely; he thought a great deal of it, and proposed to call it *Patriciella*. The insect was reputed new, and described by Mr. Stainton in his Catalogue, in 1849, as *Elachista patriciella*.

#### CHAPTER II.

Some time after this Mr. Stainton visited Mr. Curtis. In Mr. Curtis's collection he found a specimen of the same insect under the name of *Terminella*: this led him to examine Westwood's description of that insect, and it being found to agree the insect adopted the older name, just as if *Terminella* had been its uncle, and left it an estate on condition of its doing so.



## CHAPTER III.

At a later period Mr. Allen Hill met with this insect near Bristol, and duly skewered it. This specimen he kindly presented to Mr. Stainton, in whose collection it may yet be seen.

## CHAPTER IV.

In September, 1852, Mr. Stainton went into Sussex to visit his relations there; on his return he exhibited to his admiring entomological friends a singular little caterpillar mining the leaves of the Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*). These mines always commenced spirally; but after a time the larvæ left off that style of mine and went here and there at random, moving from leaf to leaf. . . These larvæ all died.

## CHAPTER V.

In September, 1853, Mr. Stainton again obtained more of these *Circaea* miners; but the fates were unpropitious, and it is not on record that any went into cocoon.

## CHAPTER VI.

On the 10th of July, 1855, Mr. Stainton received from Mr. Boyd (then at Lynmouth, N. Devon), larvæ mining the leaves of the *Circaea*. But as none of these had spiral beginnings there was considerable doubt whether these were identical with those previously found in September, in Sussex. Mr. Boyd's larvæ duly made cocoons and produced *Anybia Langiella*.

## CHAPTER VII.

On the 30th of August, 1855, Mr. Stainton collected at West Wickham Wood a number of mining larvæ in the *Circaea* leaves; of these the juvenile mines were all spiral; hence manifestly the same as those originally found in Sussex.

## CHAPTER VIII.

On the 15th of June, 1856, one of these spiral miners of the *Circaea* made its escape from the pupa: it was a lovely insect; but what need of language to describe its charms? It was *TERMINELLA*. The specimen was carefully turned on to a window, and then secluded in a pill-box: in doing so it was *squashed!* The squashed specimen may be seen in Mr. Stainton's cabinet.

POLYOMMATUS ARTAXERXES AND  
P. SALMACIS.

[From a paper by Dr. Lowe, read before the  
Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh.]

So lately as 1851 Mr. Logan, in an article in the 'Naturalist' for March of that year, after describing the *P. Artaxerxes*, remarks:—"Strange to tell, no one knows anything of their history, where they lay their eggs, or what the larva feeds on, and where the inactive chrysalis passes the long, cold months of winter, are all in mystery." Struck with these remarks, I determined to go to Arthur's Seat, for the express object of finding this long-looked-for chrysalis. I spent several hours diligently examining the stems of different plants, particularly the *Ulex Europæus* and the *Helianthemum vulgare*. I did this in the belief that all the *Polyommata* attached their chrysalids to the stems of plants, and was ignorant that any of them burrowed in the ground. My time and patience being nearly exhausted I now began to dig in the loose earth which lies beneath the bushes of furze: here I was also unsuccessful; but seeing some tufts of *Helianthemum* overhanging some barren patches of earth, I continued my examinations there, and almost immediately found several chrysalids, the appearance of which left me no doubt that they were those of *P. Artaxerxes*. Since then the larva has been detected by Mr. Logan feeding on *Helianthemum vulgare*.

Of *P. Salmacis* the larva and pupa have not yet been found. Last year (1855) I visited Castle Eden Dene, and, bearing in mind my observations on Arthur's Seat, felt sure I should, by digging in similar places under the tufts of *Helianthemum*, find the chrysalis. In this I was unsuccessful. The spot on which *P. Salmacis* is found faces the sea, and the ground is a stiff wet clay, ill suited for burying the chrysalis, if that be its habit. I did not at that time know of Mr. Harding's observations, that *P. Agestis* fed upon *Erodium cicutarium*, and consequently did not particularly note whether that plant grew there. I did notice that the *Geranium sanguineum* was in great quantity, and I feel inclined to predict that *P. Salmacis* may be found to feed on *Geranium sanguineum*, and to attach its chrysalids to the stems.

[We should be very glad to hear from any resident in that locality who could find a *Polyommatus* larva on the *Geranium sanguineum*; at present it is a moot point whether *Salmacis* is a species, and, if a variety, whether of *Agestis* or of *Ar-taxerxes*.]

ENGLISH NAMES.—A correspondent informs us that no writer on English flowers would be endured for a moment who did not give English names to each plant: most botanists are aware this is not true, and further that Babington's 'Manual of British Botany,' in which English names are only given for those plants which *are commonly known by them*, has already reached a FOURTH EDITION. Astronomy is a far older science than Entomology; and if our esteemed correspondent will send us a catalogue of stars, with English names for each, and will convince us that such catalogue is extensively used, we will be prepared to reconsider our opinion. Would it not be a great improvement if *a Centauri* were called the "shining twinkler," or

the "Centaur's gem?" It would be so much more intelligible!

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. John N. Winter writes us that he is leaving the Sussex Hospital, and that his address in future will be 28, Montpelier Road, Brighton.

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Erratum at p. 76, second column, l. 12 from the bottom, for 4 A. M. read 4 P. M.

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MOUNTED POCKET LENSES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF INSECTS; at 1s., 1s. 6d., 3s., 4s., 5s. 6d.; 4d. extra by post, safely packed: of F. T. HUDSON, Optician, 19, Stockwell Street, Greenwich, Kent.

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By J. W. DOUGLAS,

Secretary to the Entomological Society of London.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, June 21, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 13.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## THE HOLIDAYS.

“THE last Sunday of the long half” has become a thing of the past; and during the last two weeks schools have been dispersing in all directions.

The young entomologists, who for three months have been tied to one locality, with perhaps not too much time to work even at that, now find themselves in very different places with plenty of spare time, (perhaps a little too much). Those who have been at school on sand or clay are perhaps ‘at home’ on the chalk: happy indeed are they! located where Flora spreads her beauties with the most lavish hand, and where scores of insects occur not found on other soils. Some who have been at school on the chalk are now deep in the pleasures of the green sand, or less pleasantly situated on the miry clay. Some have emigrated from south to north, others have taken their railway tickets in a contrary direction.

One manifest result *has* taken place: the insects in one set of localities are enjoying a temporary respite, while the insects in other places have discovered, to their dismay, that their “beauties are no longer born to blush unseen,” but that without their leave being asked they are caught, have prussic acid administered

to them, and are then pinned and set out. And then, unfortunately, the hands that operate upon them not being very well skilled as yet, the pinning is not as precise as it should be, and the setting out leaves something to be desired, so that the unfortunate insects haven’t even the consolation of going down to posterity as “fine specimens:” *Oh ciel! autre disgrace.*

But many during the holidays will not be permanently in one place: there will be the annual migration with their sisters and younger brothers to some watering-place, where we hope they will bore all their young acquaintance by asking them if they’ve seen the ‘Intelligencer’ this week. Each of our individual readers may thus make himself exceedingly useful as a species of advertisement.

Those who go to the sea-side will, we hope, hasten to become acquainted with the botany of the coast: the number of *maritime* species of plants is enormous; but so few entomologists reside on the coast that little has yet been done in exploring and investigating the insects attached to the different sea-side plants. Here is a wide field of action, and one that will afford plenty to do during the continuance of the holidays.

Oh! if you don’t like the word “holidays,” we will say “vacation.”

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 3s. in postage stamps.

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*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday next as usual. Trains leave London Bridge for the Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, July 9.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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T. C.—A list of the rarer species occurring at Dunoon would be useful.

F. M.—It is highly improbable that the third and fourth volumes of Kirby and Spence will be reissued in the cheap form. The success of the cheap edition has been perfectly marvellous, but that may not warrant a similar experiment with vols. 3 and 4. There is a dealer in Holborn, of the name of Gardner, who is always advertising his foreign insects for sale: your friends can probably obtain *C. dispar* of him. The heaps of dust are caused by the presence of mites which soon destroy your insects; you should keep the drawers well supplied with camphor, and the specimens attacked should be brushed over with a mixture of equal parts of oil of thyme, oil of anise, and spirits of wine.

D. W., BOX HILL.—Your larger insect is *Venilia maculata*. The smaller species are *Pyrausta anginalis* and *porphyralis*.

J. H. T., GREENWICH.—The wood Tiger feeds upon plantain (*Plantago*). The 'Intelligencer' is obtainable in the Row, and your bookseller flams you when he says you can't get it there.

A. O. can obtain by purchase or exchange from Mr. Hodgkinson, 41, St. Peter's Square, *Daplidice*, *Dispar* and *Antiopa*. We don't vouch for their authenticity, but Mr. H. does.

F. H. F.—Your Lappet should be just full-fed: you may expect the moth in three or four weeks.

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*Several interesting communications which reached us on Wednesday are held over till next week.*

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Duplicates of Anthrocera Trifolii.*—The Rev. Z. I. Edwards, Axminster, Devon, has in his possession duplicates of *Anthrocera Trifolii* belonging to some

youthful members of his family, which they wish to exchange for *Papilio Machaon*, *Cynthia Cardui*, *Grapta C-Album*, *Thecla W-Album*, *Polyommatus Corydon*, or any Sphingina, except the Forester or Burnet Moths.—J. JENNER WEIR, *Pembury Green*; June 24, 1856.

*Eggs of Limacodes Testudo* (LEP).—Should Mr. Logan not have received an answer to his query at p. 84 of the 'Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer' from a living observer, I have quoted the following from one long since gone to his rest. *Limacodes Testudo* is figured by Kleeman on plate 38 of his 'Beiträge zur Insectengeschichte.' Though Kleeman has not drawn the egg of *Limacodes Testudo*, he says the female lays her little oval eggs singly on oak and beech trees, which eggs are at first yellow. In a note he remarks that the eggs which produce the shield-caterpillars of *L. Testudo* are remarkably distinguished by their oval form from the eggs which produce the shield-caterpillars of *Thecla Betulæ* and *Thecla Pruni*, which last he says are not oval but semi-circular, white, rough and punctured. Sepp says of these, "These eggs were not perfectly round, and did not appear figured through the microscope, but on the contrary were like little water-blisters which had no regular form. Shortly after being laid their thickness was very small, but they became greater and thicker as the little caterpillars in the eggs grew, which growth could not take place if the shells were hard." See Sepp's 'Beschouwing der Wonderen Gods,' &c., vol. ii., plate 15, p. 62.—T. CHAPMAN, *Glasgow*; June 20, 1856.

*Sesia fuciformis*.—I caught a fine specimen of this insect (Broad-bordered Bee Hawk Moth) on the 18th inst. in one of the rides on the top of Box Hill, hovering round *Betonica officinalis* (Wood Betony). I also saw several specimens of *Lithosia rubricollis* flying round the tops of the young oaks, and

succeeded in capturing three.—D. WATNEY, *Box Hill, near Dorking*; June 20, 1856.

*Smerinthus Tiliæ*.—On a row of palings at Herne Hill on the left side from London to the Half Moon Public House, Dulwich, from the middle of May to the middle of June, I have never failed to find *S. Tiliæ* in great abundance.—GEORGE AUSTEN, 51, *Rue des Carmes, Caen*; June 20, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Deal*.—On the sand-hills here I have taken *Lupeolina Albicollon* and *Leucania littoralis*; these are best obtained by beating out the dead herbage on the sand-drifts near the sea. On the hills, near Dover, the pretty *Setina irrorella* is now making its appearance: *Chrosis tessarana* is quite a pest; of *Argyrolepis dubrisana* I have taken but two.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; June 19, 1856.

*Rhodaria sanguinalis*.—This insect is now out on the sand-hills, and *Leucania littoralis* is just appearing: I have seen the first to-day.—C. S. GREGSON, *Liverpool*; June 18, 1856.

*Eupithecia pusillaria*.—I took a *Eupithecia* at West Wickham the end of last May, which I fancied was this species, and I have since ascertained it to be so: it is a female specimen, and in very fine condition. Last year I met with one at Mickleham about the same time.—H. TOMPKINS, 90, *Guildford Street, Russell Square, London*; June 18, 1856.

*Nepticula Headleyella* (LEP).—On the 8th inst. I obtained a beautiful specimen of this pretty species by sweeping in the Hilly Field, in Headley Lane: it would seem from this to be double-brooded, as Mr. Douglas took the pair he has, I believe, in August.—IBID.

*Captures of Lepidoptera in Sussex*.—During last week I have taken here *Phonopteryx Upupana*, six *Macaria notata*, *Elachista ochreella*, and other rarities. I have seen no trace of the larva of *Col.*

*Wockeella*. I have found on the birch a long case something like that of *C. limiosipennella*, and on the *Rhanmus frangula* a case with curious appendages something in the style of the nut-feeding *Fuscedinella* cases.—J. JENNER WEIR, *Pembury Green*; June 24, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera in Scotland*.—I met with *Botys decrepitalis* in Amal Forest, north of Ross-shire, at the beginning of this month: this is about six miles from the place where I first found it: it was very local, and I only found it amongst *Vaccinium* and brakes. Had the weather been favourable I might have taken a good many of them, but they were much injured by the high wind. I also met with *R. Erxlebella* at the end of May among birches. *Pro-nubella* and *Chalybe pyrausta* I could not find.—E. C. BUXTON, 26, *South King Street, Manchester*; June 17, 1856.

*Larva in the Rush*.—I have bred what was expected to be *Thrasionella*: such a beauty, in the shape of *Bactra Lanco-lana*!—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees*; June 18, 1856.

*Coleophora of the Thistle*.—In the autumn of 1850 I found several cases of a *Coleophora* on thistles; but as I kept them in the house of course I did not succeed in rearing them: they were, to the best of my recollection, as I neglected to make any description of them, elongate, straight and smooth, without any protuberances, dark grey, almost black, and perhaps should have lived through the winter and fed again in the spring.—R. F. LOGAN, *Duddingston, Edinbro'*; June 17, 1856.

*Hypercallia Christiernana* (LEP.) bred. —I now briefly communicate to you an observation which will interest you, and probably give rise to a paragraph in the 'Intelligencer': it concerns the discovery of the larva of *Hypercallia Christiernana*; I have this morning bred the first specimen! On the 4th of June I made an excursion with Herr Bremi to a woody

part of the Uetliberg, in order to seek there for the *Elachista* larva of the *Sesleria*. Towards the end of our excursion Herr Bremi showed me a singular green pupa which he had found fastened to the under side of a leaf of *Polygala Chamaebuxus*: I examined it critically; it appeared something like a large pupa of *Anchinia Verrucella*, only green, yet with the prolongation in front longer. I could not conceive whatever it could be. Some days later I was in a similar locality, when suddenly I again fell in with this singular pupa: an *Anchinia* it could not be, since, except *Verrucella*, no other occurs near Zurich. All at once I recollected that exactly at this place *H. Christiernana* was accustomed to fly, and that the genus *Hypercallia* was nearly allied to *Anchinia*: I now sought on the *Polygala Chamaebuxus*, and had soon some larvæ and pupæ; the larva lives in the united leaves at the end of the shoot, and is easily seen; the pupa is always placed on the under side of the leaf: the larva is not lively: shortly before it changes the head and prothorax are yellowish, the body is of a dull red-brown ground colour, with three broad whitish lines along the back, and a finer whitish line on each side; the spots are black, surrounded with white: when younger the larva is pale green, with broad brown lateral stripes: it appears to remain in the pupa state three weeks. If *Polygala Chamaebuxus* occurs near London you should yet be able to find the larva.—H. FREY, *Zurich*; June 18, 1856.

[*Polygala Chamaebuxus* is not a British plant, but the inference would be very strong that here *H. Christiernana* would feed upon *Polygala vulgaris*; at any rate that plant should be well searched in the known *Christiernana* localities.]

*To the lovers of the sublime*.—As many of your readers may possibly retreat on the approach of a thunder storm, I wish to observe that it is just the time when

they ought to collect, more especially on the edge of it, if I may use the expression. I collected once on the approach of a thunder-storm for a couple of hours, and took species in great numbers: many beat a retreat on the approach of a storm, but I have preferred a good drenching with my pockets well filled with captures; and when sugaring I have taken rarities freely, where the moths could be readily seen at the sugar by the light of the flashes of lightning.—J. B. HODGKINSON, 41, *St. Peter's, Square, Preston*; June 22, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera.*—In the last four weeks I have taken the following, among others of less note:

- Cucullia Chamomillæ,
- Polyommatus Alsus, more than 200,  
sitting on the stems of grass  
during rain,
- Apatela leporina,
- Nola cristulalis,
- Chlorochroma viridaria,
- Acidalia Blomeraria,
- „ Sylvaria,
- Penthina picana (bred),
- Phoxopteryx biarcuana,
- „ uncana,
- „ Myrtillana,
- Tinea bistrigella,
- Micropteryx Salopiella,
- „ Sparmannella,
- Nepticula Argyropeza,
- Lithocolletis Amyotella,
- „ Stettinensis,
- Elachista ochreella.

I met with a larva apparently of *Depressaria impurella* on the *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*, but it got crushed.—IBID.

*New British Tinea.*—On the 22nd inst. Mr. Standish was on the top of Box Hill, and among the *Epilobium angustifolium* growing there he took several specimens of the pretty *Laverna Rasehkiella*. The insect was known to frequent that plant, but of course till it had been taken here it would not have been orthodox to have looked for it. *Butalis in-*

*spersella* and *Laverna conturbatella* have both been bred from the same plant, but not having been found here their day is not come. A flock of sheep following their leader through a gap in the hedge is a laughable sight; the author of 'The World of Insects' would no doubt say, "In the world there are many parallels."—H. T. STAINTON; *June, 25, 1856.*

*Asyehna terminella* (LEP.) bred.—A second specimen has now made its appearance, and has escaped the sad end which befel its predecessor.—IBID.

*Nepticula Headleyella and eryptella.*—I met with both these species on Monday evening in Headley Lane, near the spot where I took *Col. conspieuella* last year: my search on the present occasion for the larva of that species was unsuccessful.—IBID.

*Capture of Carabus Intricatus.*—This fine insect was taken here yesterday by the wife of a friend of mine, named Hayward, of Devonport, who brought it to me to know what it was: it is a little injured, having been trodden upon, and the scutellum is cracked.—J. J. READING, *Plymouth*; *June 19, 1856.*

*Lost, an Entomologist's Address.*—A Mr. Hendy, living at or near Manchester (but whose address has unfortunately been mislaid), is informed that the box containing four specimens of *M. Athalia* which he sent some time since to the Rev. H. Burney, Wavendon, Woburn, Beds, arrived in a state of utter dissolution, the box being literally in fragments. Mr. Burney wrote immediately to Mr. Hendy; but after waiting for some time the letter was returned to Mr. Burney from the dead-letter office. Mr. Burney therefore concludes that he must have been in error with regard to Mr. Hendy's address.—HENRY BURNEY, *Wavendon Rectory, Woburn, Beds*; *June 17, 1856.*

*Beneificial effect of Entomology.*—Before I took to the study of Entomology I was by the profession considered as incurable, in the last stage of con-

sumption; but rambling over hill and dale, and the consequent excitement, seems to have restored my lungs and given me back the feelings and energies of early youth.—A FLORIST.

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MISCELLANEA.

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FRAGMENT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO LARVÆ OF HYPERCALLIA CHRISTIERNANA.

SCENE: Castle Eden Dene.

*Feeding larva.* What! have you begun to spin already?

*Spinning larva.* Oh yes! you know I'm three days older than you.

*Feed.* I hope you've chosen a well-hidden leaf, for I hear there's mischief abroad.

*Spin.* So have I, and I'll do my best to keep hid; it all comes of that Frey: what a stew it did put me in.

*Feed.* Yes; but wasn't it lucky that Scott was here last week; if he were to come here now he would'nt be going home so glum as he did then.

*Spin.* Well, I was more frightened when Wailes came: I wish he would'nt bring his *cara sposa* with him.

*Feed.* It is too bad: ladies have no business to look for caterpillars; their eyes are too sharp.

*Spin.* Well, I hope they won't come back again.

*Feed.* If they do, we'll hope they will get such a soaking shower that they won't stop.

*Spin.* Oh! drat!

*Feed.* Why, what's the matter?

*Spin.* Oh! such a nuisance!

*Feed.* Well! what is it?

*Spin.* Oh! Oh! Oh!

*Feed.* Do, for goodness' sake, say what it is. You frighten me.

*Spin.* And well I may. Listening to your chattering, [I didn't mind suffi-

ciently what I was doing; and I've drawn a thread too tight, and its pucker'd the leaf.

*Feed.* Well; that is serious!—but if you're well out of sight it won't signify.

*Spin.* Oh! I'm right under the centre of the leaf. They can't see me at all from above. But, still, if that tiresome Scott should see this little pucker I've inadvertently made in the leaf, good gracious! I almost feel as if a pin were running through me.

*Feed.* Well! I'll be more careful, and endeavour to profit by your misfortune. I wish I were better hid at present than where I am in the terminal shoot. . . . .

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLLATION.

One of the most interesting entomological events of the season was the meeting at Reigate, last Saturday, to do justice to the "cold collation" to which the members of the Entomological Society were invited by their hospitable President.

The number who sat down was, we believe, at least thirty-six; and, the appetites of most of the party being sharpened by several hours' ramble in the neighbourhood, in pursuit of specimens, there was soon a sudden diminution in the weight of the various comestibles under which the table groaned.

After the cloth had been removed sundry toasts were given; and one of the most interesting was proposed by a gentleman who, it was stated, was about to become a member of the Entomological Society. Mr. Fenning complained that, whereas the company had already drunk success to Entomology and to the Entomological Society, with the healths of the President, Vice-President, &c., &c., no one had proposed the health of *insects*; yet without them the science of Entomology could not exist. He thought this was an unintentional slight



which the meeting would be only too happy to rectify; and he would therefore propose the health of a little beetle which had made some sensation at his end of the table; and though it might be objected that, the beetle being dead, it was useless to drink its health, yet there were no doubt living representatives of the species; and therefore he had much pleasure in proposing the health of *Callistus lunaticus*. He might be in error about the name, but he believed it was either *lunaticus* or *lunatus*. The toast having been duly honoured, *Callistus lunatus* was called on to return thanks; but, not responding, Mr. Janson was requested to represent the *Callistus* on this occasion. Mr. Janson regretted that the insect was so rare that he had not sufficient personal acquaintance with it to be able adequately to follow out the train of ideas which *Callistus lunatus* might be conceived to possess; but he hoped, if called upon to speak for the same insect another year, he might be better able to act as its representative.

Mr. Janson then sat down; but, had he proceeded to give a longer address to the company, he would, on the suggestion of Mr. Westwood, have spoken somewhat as follows:—

“Gentlemen,—I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without expressing my regret that so little attention is paid by the collectors of *Coleoptera* to the habits and primary states of the insects they profess to study. It is true we occasionally find recorded the discovery of some larva, or of some trait in beetle-life previously unknown; but it does not appear to me that there is that energetic, persistent attempt to work out the primary states of each species of a genus, which has been found so successful in another branch of Entomology.

“I can have no wish to undervalue the labours of my coadjutors; but it occurs to me that a Power is gifted with

higher powers than those of thrashing fallows and exciting gamekeepers (so that he has to run for his life from their indignant ire); that a Wollaston has other work cut out for him than in enumerating the insects of Madeira. If Mr. Wollaston would travel on the Continent he would learn that there is another island in the Atlantic than that with which his name is so honourably connected.”

Perhaps, however, this portion of Mr. Janson's speech will be delivered on the next occasion.

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SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—A gentleman, not yet entangled in the meshes of Entomology, who was invited by Mr. Saunders to the Reigate *réunion*, received a visit the previous night from a *Cimex lectularius*, an insect whose acquaintance he had not made for the previous twenty years. He looked on it as a reminder that he was the next day to dine with a party of bug-hunters. “Coming events cast their shadows before.”

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*Botanical and Entomological Gathering.*—During this week there has been a large influx of gentlemen connected with botanical science from Liverpool, Manchester, and other places, visiting their friends at Staleybridge, in order to hold their annual meeting, which this year took place in that very romantic spot, the North Britain, situate on the moors, about two miles from Staleybridge. There were some 300 naturalists present. Mr. Jethro Tinker was elected chairman, and Mr. James Hague vice. A very rare and choice collection of plants was exhibited, all of which were scientifically arranged by Messrs. Clough and Ollershaw. Being what is termed North Britain wakes, although there is but one house within view, about a thousand persons paid a visit to the place, and appeared much delighted with the rich

treat provided. After the meeting separated a number of entomologists met at the Dog and Partridge, Staleybridge, when Mr. T. Hague, the landlord, exhibited a large number of beautiful and rare insects, amongst which were *Lithocolletis Vacciniella* and *Nepticula Weaveri*, which he had succeeded in obtaining from a place near Staleybridge, known as the "Brushes," and which before this season were considered exclusively Scotch. He likewise exhibited about thirty of a new species bred by him from *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*. The new species is named by Mr. Gregson, of Liverpool, *Coleophora Vitisella*. The meeting this season has been exceedingly well attended. — MANCHESTER COURIER; June 21, 1856.

NOTES AND QUERIES, BY J. O. WESTWOOD, ESQ.

PEA LARVA.—Now that green peas are coming in it will be useful to examine the pods of any which have a suspicious appearance, as they inclose the larva of a Lepidopterous insect, which gnaws the pea inside. If any of your subscribers should be so fortunate as to find this larva I should be very much obliged to them for a specimen, as well as for the name of the perfect insect.

The extract you recently gave from the letter of Edwin Lees on the 'Harmonies of Nature,' which may be traced between insects and plants, presents matter for deeper enquiry than at first appears on the surface. In working out the lists of insects which infest the chief of our native trees, published in Loudon's 'Arboretum Britannicum,' I was interested, but not surprised, to find that many of the insects which frequented trees belonging to the same natural order were very nearly related to each other, and I should think the enquiry, if applied to the Micro-Lepidoptera, would furnish good results on the relationships of allied species: in *Nepticula* for instance, are

the species which feed upon allied plants belonging to different natural families? Of course a more minute examination of the structure of such Micro-Lepidoptera as becomes the subject of such an enquiry will be necessary than is usually made, something more being required to prove relationship than the possession of a bar across the wings, or a costal or apical spot. In a group of twenty species structural distinctions will also exist, and these alone will furnish the true tests of relationship. In cases, moreover, where a species feeds upon several plants (I of course exclude the polyphagous or omnivorous species), do the plants fed upon ever belong to different natural families? —J. O. W.

[The answer in our next.]

ERRATUM.—At p. 84, bottom line of first column, for Argyle read Ayr.

On Tuesday next, price 3d., No. 5 of

A MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS.

By H. T. STAINTON.

The work will contain descriptions of all the British species, with popular readable instructions where to find and how to know them, and is illustrated with numerous wood-ents.

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A GUIDE TO ITS WONDERS.

By J. W. DOUGLAS,

Secretary to the Entomological Society of London.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 14.]

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

(No. 2.)

ON Monday next, July 7th, the Entomological Society of London holds its usual monthly Meeting at its rooms, 12, Bedford Row, Holborn, at 8 P.M.: *please to copy the address*; for don't imagine that if you forget the number any one in the street can tell you where to find the Entomological Society. An excellent illustration of the ignorance which prevails in London as to one's neighbours was given at the last Meeting of the Society, on which occasion the celebrated Swedish entomologist, M. Dahlbom, had intended to be present, but unfortunately some kind friend had misdirected him to No. *Eleven*, Bedford Row, where not only did he not succeed in finding the Society, which was located at No. *Twelve*, but he could not meet with any one who could tell him where to find it, and consequently spent about an hour walking up and down in search of the Entomological Society, and arrived just as the Meeting was over; but "*Sero nunquam est ad bonos mores via,*" and M. Dahlbom arrived in time for tea.

Several of our readers responded to our invitation in our No. 9 to come and see the Entomological Society, but some were unfortunately prevented by the blunders of their booksellers from seeing

the 'Intelligencer' till late on the Monday evening. And even of those who read our article on the Saturday a few are disheartened at the anticipated difficulty of "what are they to say if the porter asks them what they want?" and their idea of having to frame a satisfactory answer to a portly official in a red coat and brass . . . . but we have no porter! "Impossible, there can be no such man."

The continuation of the imaginary scene so abruptly broken off at p. 66, may be conceived as follows.

"What is the reason that while apparently some scientific business is going on, every one at this end of the room keeps talking?"

"Well I think we mustn't complain of that, as we are contributing our share: but the fact is the Secretary is only reading the minutes of the last Meeting, and it is looked on as a mere form."

"Who is that gentleman sitting with his back to the window who might pass for the effigy at a tobacconist's shop, he is so continually taking a pinch."

"Oh! that is Mr. Desvignes, so deep in the literature of the *Ichneumonidæ*: they say he has so much snuff in his insect drawers that it drives away all the mites."

"Is that Mr. Wollaston there?"

"Oh no! he very rarely comes; besides now he is out of town."

"Then who is that?"

"That is Mr. Francis Walker, a perfect ambulatory encyclopædia of entomological knowledge; you will find him very agreeable, and always ready to impart information: but we mustn't talk so loud now, as the reading the minutes is finished."

"What do they do next?"

"Oh! they read the list of donations."

"Which includes, I suppose, the last numbers of the 'Intelligencer.'"

"Now what are they doing?"

"Reading the certificates of some members about to be elected."

"Then will there be a ballot?"

"Most likely."

"Now come the exhibitions; this is generally the most interesting part of the Meeting: see! look how pleased Mr. Stevens looks; he is going to exhibit his bred *Agdistes Bennettii*."

"I see; he has put off the cares of office with that last receipt he gave."

"Now who was that? he has his back to us, but he said something so excessively droll, with the most solemn air, and set every body in a roar."

"Oh! that's Mr. Newman; I thought you had known him."

"Ah! yes: I remember now, he said in his 'History of Insects,' 'It is important to avoid sitting on pill-boxes, as it must interfere with their structure;' and I thought I should have died of laughter, it was put so gravely." . . .

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devon-

shire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 2s. 10d. in postage stamps.

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*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday next.

Mr. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday, July 16th, as usual.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Several interesting communications which reached us on Wednesday are held over till next week.*

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G. O., WISBECH.—*Sphinx Lignstri* does sometimes remain two or more winters in the pupa state.

G. S., ST. HELENS.—We do not know a larva mining the stems of *Artemisia*: a Dipterous larva is very common in the leaves, but it does not make inflated bladderly mines like *G. omissella*.

J. O. W.—*Tortrix* of *Wheat-leaves*.—Any practical collector will tell you that a vast number of the Tortricidæ spin up anywhere, and may constantly be found on plants on which they have *not fed*. Your pupa skins may belong to a *Sciaphila* or *Penthina*, &c., &c.

W. H., GRAVESEND.—*Tight-fitting boxes* do excellently to keep insects in; many prefer them to cabinets: keep them supplied with camphor. Butterflies are often pinned to show the under side; moths always to show the upper side.

A. K.—Your Fungus-feeders are *Cis Boleti*. If you wish small beetles to travel *safely* by post, enclose them in a quill! beetles as big as cockchafers cannot be sent in quills.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*A Sip at the Sugar in the Forest of Bere*.—Last night (June 23rd), having been the first really good night for sugaring in these parts, a list of my captures may be interesting to some and stimulating to others of your readers. I started at half-past eight, and sugared right on to half-past nine; and as I jog-trotted between the trees the distance must have been somewhere about three miles, all forest, in which space I should think that full 300 trees received sweet attentions at my hands: on the way my net snapped up *Botys lancealis*, and as it got dark *Metrocampa margaritaria*, *Tephrosia punctularia*, and a few common things. At sugar I took the following:—

Apatela leporina,  
Diphthera Orion,  
Leucania comma,

Xylophasia hepatica,  
Rusina tenebrosa,  
Noctua festiva,  
,, brunnea,  
,, triangulum,  
,, C-nigrum,  
Hadena adusta,  
,, thalassina,  
,, contigua,  
Aplecta tincta,  
,, herbida,  
Euplexia lucipara,  
Thyatira batis,  
Heliothis marginata,  
Erastria fuscula,

besides hosts of commoner species. Mr. Crewe too, who is staying with me, returned home not ill-pleased with his night's sport. He took a different road from mine into the forest, hoping to come across a late specimen or two of *Hadena Genistæ* to complete his series: it has, however, been very chary of itself this season, and did not last night affect its accustomed haunts; neither did he meet with *Leporina* or *Orion*; but, partly to make up for this, he took five *Heliothis marginata*, (whereas I only took three), and two *Neuria Saponariæ*; the two last-named species being new to my local list. He also took, besides several already named, *Acronycta Ligustri* at sugar, &c., &c. In the morning I had obtained *A. villica*; and as I was coming home from a twelve miles' ride detected a nest of *Vanessa polychloros* on a high sallow tree, which yielded me sixty-five half-fed larvæ; and on my return from sugaring I was pleased to find the first of some *Cucullia Asteris*, which I obtained last autumn, just out of the pupa. I am not yet quite such an old hand as to take such a day's doings all serenely as a thing of course, and fear, that for the moment, I felt myself to be, as the Latin Grammar has it, "Haud ulli veterum virtute secundus." It is needless to add that my slumbers were disturbed by no ghost (of a) moth.—WILLIAM HENRY

HAWKER, *Horndean, Hants; June 24, 1856.*

*Eupithecia larvæ, how obtainable.*—Many of this family will now be out in plenty: some of my friends write me that they cannot get this genus to lay their eggs: my plan is to place a large bunch of their food-plant in a breeding-cage and turn the females loose amongst it: the eggs will be found on the tops of the flowering-stems.—C. S. GREGSON, *June 20, 1856.*

*Captures at Birmingham.*—I have captured during the past week,

Callimorpha Jacobææ,  
Abraxas ulmata,  
Thymele Tages.

If any of your correspondents should be in want of the above I should be glad to hear from them. I am in want of the following:—

Pamphila Linea,  
,, Comma,  
,, Actæon,  
Aretia Villiea.

—J. B. STONE, 89, *Lupin Street, Birmingham; June 23, 1856.*

*Captures at Thornhill, Dumfriesshire.*—*Neurobina Lucina* was taken in the parish of Closeburn about two weeks ago; it was quite new to me as a butterfly of this locality. *Gnophria rubricollis* is unusually common at present; and a few days ago I took *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*, which is rare here. *Thyatira batis* (the peach-blossom) has also been taken here.—T. B. GRIERSON, *Thornhill, Dumfriesshire; June 25, 1856.*

*Captures of Lepidoptera in Cornwall.*—I have to record the capture of *Stauropus Fagi* and *Dipthera Orion* on the same day, June 25th; the former was at rest on a young oak, and its attitude I think worthy of remark. Its fore legs were stretched out like *Dasychira pudibunda*, and its hind wings projected considerably beyond the upper, as in the lappets. The *Dipthera Orion* was also at rest on the mossy timber of an oak.

Both the specimens were unflown, and both females. I have also taken about a score of *Hypeua Crassalis* in the same wood, and one *Eucosmia Undularia* today. The other day I took two specimens of *Aretia Villiea* on the cliffs, where *Harpalyce Galiaria* is also common. Altogether this appears to be a good locality, though the south-western coast has not a good name.—E. HORTON, *Polvellan, West Looe, Cornwall; June 26, 1856.*

*Drepana Sicula* (LEP.).—You will be interested to learn that after the lapse of twenty-one years this insect has occurred in Leigh Woods: it was taken last week by my friend Mr. H. Bolt. We have looked after more pretty keenly; but up to the present time none have been found.—GEORGE HARDING, JUNR., *Stapleton, near Bristol; June 27, 1856.*

*Captures of Lepidoptera.*—I am now taking *Melanthia rivata* [a specimen has been sent us]. *Coremia minutaria* is also numerous. I have taken some *Harpalyce galiaria*. I have duplicates on hand of

*E. rivularia*,  
*M. Alehemillaria*,  
*A. lutearia*,  
*P. marginata*,  
*Z. adustata*,  
*Loz. Petrarica*,  
*E. poraria*, and  
*H. ocellaria*.

—E. S. NORCOMBE, *Heavitree, Exeter; June 28, 1856.*

*Captures near Dover.*—

*Polyommatus Corydon*, plentiful,  
*Pamphila Comma*,  
*Macroglossa Stellatarum*,  
*Charocampa Porecellus* and *Elpenor*  
(these two on flowers and at sugar),  
*Sphinx ligustri* is plentiful here,  
feeding on the sycamore and ash,  
*Callimorpha dominula*,  
*Polia serena* on flowers of bugloss  
*Heliothis marginata*,  
,, *dipsacea*,

*Cochylis gigantana*,  
and the larva of

*Ypsolophus Durdhamellus* on Ori-  
ganum vulgare.

On the sand-hills, near Deal, I have  
found

*Acidalia perocharia* among grass,  
*Halias clorana* on old willows,  
*Lampronia Rubiella*, and  
*Æchmia atrella*.

Some old ash trees here have the bark  
full of *Hylurgus ater*. I have taken a  
great number of the bee tribe; some  
nice ones amongst them.—H. J. HARD-  
ING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*;  
July 1, 1856.

*Offer of Duplicate Larvæ*.—I have a  
few larvæ of *Notodonta Ziezac* to spare,  
and am in want of *Saturnia Pavonia-  
Minor* and *Aretia Villica*.—R. H.  
FREMLIN, *Wateringbury, Maidstone*;  
July 1, 1856.

*Lepidoptera taken at Sheffield*.—I  
have again taken a few *Ceropacha flue-  
tuosa* and *duplavis* by beating birch and  
oak; *Notodonta dromedarius* and *came-  
lina* the same way: and at sugar a fine  
pair of *Acronyeta Alni* in company with  
*Rectilinea*, *Herbida*, &c.—W. H., *Shef-  
field*; July 1, 1856.

*Acronyeta Alni*.—I caught a single  
specimen, and that a remarkably fresh-  
looking and beautiful one, of this insect  
at sugar in Colnethorpe Wood on the  
12th inst.—S. STONE; June 30, 1856.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—On Saturday last  
I had the pleasure of setting a very fine  
female specimen of *Acherontia Atropos*.  
It was taken alive while quietly resting  
in the station of the Vale of Neath Rail-  
way in this town: the person who found  
it kept it alive for two or three days, still  
it is very little injured, the forehead and  
tips of the wings being a little denuded  
—THOMAS PARRY, *Bank, Merthyr Tyd-  
vil*; July 1, 1856.

*Importation of Lepidoptera*.—Since  
recording the capture of some Cole-  
optera imported in wool from Buenos

Ayres at page 85, I have several times  
seen the same species in wool from the  
same quarter; and on the 24th of June,  
having occasion to go down into the hold  
of the ship "Ferris," just arrived from  
Monte Video with a cargo of wool, hides,  
&c., I found, besides swarms of the  
beetles named at p. 85, *Tinea Tapetzella*,  
in abundance, and took a few specimens  
of *Tinea Merdella*, Z., and a single spe-  
cimen of an apparently new *Ephestia*.—  
N. COOKE, *Liverpool*; June 30, 1856.

*Roeslerstammia Erxlebella* (LEP.).—As  
to this species, it may occur on limes, but  
I took it in two places, one in Ross-shire  
and one in Sutherland, in both cases  
high up the hills, and with nothing near  
but heather and birch: I brushed it off  
birch.—E. C. BUXTON, *Daresbury Hall,  
Warrington*; June 23, 1856.

*On the habits of Argyresthia glauci-  
uella* (LEP.).—The larvæ of this species  
feed under the bark of oak and  
Spanish chestnut; they are excessively  
local, and only found at the base of trees  
of enormous size; to wit, out of 1000  
oaks, &c., in Dunham Park, I have  
found them only on one Spanish chest-  
nut and three oaks. The imago pops  
out from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., a continual  
appearance: they rarely rest with the  
head as a support like most of the spe-  
cies, but place themselves full-stretch on  
their legs as if ready to bolt; it is all  
*sham*; nothing is easier than to pop  
them into a pill-box. I have seen none  
on the wing; all were at rest. I do not  
doubt that they have been overlooked,  
from the strange place of their abode re-  
quiring a person to *prostrate* himself to  
be successful in their capture; they are  
now out.—R. S. EDLESTON, 5, *Meal  
Street, Manchester*; June 28, 1856.

*Glyphipteryx Haworthana* (LEP.).—  
From the fat dumpy larva on the *Erio-  
phorum* flower-heads I have bred a grand  
series of this insect.—IBID.

*Coleophora of the Thistle*.—I am very  
glad to see, by this week's 'Intelligen-

cer,' that Mr. Salt has found the *Coleophora* of the thistle; for since I found the mined leaves, near Dublin, I have never seen a *Coleophora*-mined thistle-leaf. I hope it may prove a new species, but I have my doubts about it from what I remember of the mine. I fancy it is the vagaries of a few eccentric *C. Aleyonipennuella* larvæ: however, I hope Mr. Salt will have considerably more than seems to be his usual luck, and breed them all, and that they may prove to be a new species.—RICHARD SHIELD, 12, Mansfield Place, Kentish Town; June 25, 1856.

*Coleophora of the Thistle*.—I have this evening found *Coleophora Aleyonipennuella* feeding upon thistles, some leaves of which were more blotched than ever I saw the leaves of *Centaurea nigra*.—C. S. GREGSON, Edge Lane, Old Swan; June 27, 1856.

*Coleophora of the Rhamnus*.—These case-bearers prefer plants of the *Rhamnus frangula* that are sheltered, and yet not too much shaded by trees: I did not find one on an exposed plant. The larvæ are more likely to be met with under the leaves of lower branches, as only one of those I found was near the upper part of the shrub. The blotches are oval, have a glazed appearance, and an edge of brown when not quite fresh, the centre being light brown or dirty white: there are, usually, many blotches on the same leaf.—S. C. TRESS BEALE, Ivy Court, Tenterden; June 28, 1856.

*Chauliodes Illigerellus* (LEP.).—I am "ever too late;" and now behold the deserted habitations of *Illigerellus*: I could have gathered hundreds of them; but it was "too late." I find, however, there is one larva.—R. DRANE, 22, Frederick Street, Cardiff; June 30, 1856.

*Mysterious mining-larva*.—I send you a larva mining the leaves of the maple, which I found at Darent Wood: when full-fed it constructs a circular case out of the upper cuticle, and a layer of the

lower cuticle of the leaf, not forming a hole through the leaf, as a piece of the lower epidermis is still left untouched. Can it be anything allied to *Elachista Treitschkiella*?—C. MILLER; June 29, 1856.

*Solution of Enigma No. 21*.—I have bred *Tinea bistrigella* from larvæ which mine the leaves of the birch in the autumn in a long straight line, and then cut only a small oval case, in which they descend to the ground, and become pupæ without feeding again, the perfect insect emerging the following summer. I could have told Mr. John Scott what his rush-feeding larva would produce, as I worked out the transformations of *Bactra lanceolana* years ago, and have a series of drawings of the species in its various stages, which will appear in my 'Illustrations.' The larva is green, with black head and tubercles, and the pupa amber-yellow and remarkably straight and cylindrical. It completes its transformations in a white silken folliculus within the stem of the rush, near the root. In reply to Mr. Westwood's enquiry, I have bred either *Endopisa nebritana* or *E. pisana* from the larvæ which feed in the pods of the garden-pea; but the specimen rendered itself indistinguishable in its attempts to escape, before I discovered that it was out. I mean, however, to try again this year.—R. F. LOGAN, Duddingstone, Edinburgh; June 30, 1856.

*Anybia Langiella* (LEP.) again.—I send you some larvæ in the leaves of the *Circea lutetiana*: I met with them yesterday near Exeter, but only in one small spot under the shade of a wall: when I found them most of the larvæ were out of the mines resting beneath the leaves; but when night came on they all returned to the leaves again.—E. PARFITT, 4, Weirfield Place, St. Leonard's, Exeter; June 30, 1856.

*Another New British Tinea*.—Yesterday I revisited the *Epilobium angustifolium* on Box Hill, and took several spe-



cimens of *Laverna Raschkiella*, and also a fine series of *Laverna conturbatella*. I still hope to get *Butalis inspersella*.—F. O. STANDISH, 2, Alfred Cottages, Warner Road, Camberwell; June 30, 1856.

*Psyche fusca* wanted.—I am very anxious to make the personal acquaintance of the larva and female of this insect. The female should be vermiform, that is without legs or antennæ. Can any of my readers assist me?—H. T. STAINTON; July 2, 1856.

*Necydalis umbellatarum* (COL.).—Through all the fields about here the great British public, that will not be denied anything, claims a right of way, whether it has the right or not, as the gaps in the hedges abundantly testify. The unhappy occupiers of the fields quietly protest against the trespassers by filling the gaps with substances of as opposing a nature as they can, and sometimes so effectually that the gap is not reopened for two years. Branches of whitethorn are generally employed; and when beating some of these rotten sticks one evening last week I was pleased to see in the net a specimen of *Necydalis umbellatarum*, and subsequently I got three more in the same way: hence I presume they were reared in the dead wood. I have often, but in vain, searched flowers after the orthodox directions for this beetle: if my supposition be correct it may not hereafter be quite so rare in our collections, and we may learn something of its natural history. I have used the name under which the insect stands in Stephens' 'Nomenclature.' Mr. Newman refers it to his genus *Heliomanes*, but it is placed in the Stettin Catalogue under the genus *Molorchus*, Fabr.—J. W. DOUGLAS, Lee; June 30, 1856.

*New Scent for Sugar*.—I was collecting last summer with a young friend who used anise-seed instead of rum for his sugaring: it is very attractive to moths. He told me he had obtained

some good specimens by it.—AN ETONIAN; June 23, 1856.

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### MISCELLANEA.

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#### INSECTS AND PLANTS.

##### *Theory on Practice.*

At p. 104 of our last number, Mr. Westwood says he "was interested, but not surprised, to find that many of the insects which frequented trees belonging to the same natural order were very nearly related to each other," and that he thinks "the enquiry, if applied to the Micro-Lepidoptera, would furnish good results on the relationships of allied species; in *Nepticula*, for instance, are the species which feed upon allied plants *more nearly related together than those which feed upon plants\** belonging to different natural families?"

As all practical entomologists very soon learn to look on allied plants, for allied species we were surprised to find that Mr. Westwood should think he was suggesting some important truth for elucidation and investigation. An insect is found eating the leaves of one of the *Leguminosæ*: search is immediately made on other *Leguminosæ* for the same species, and in this search a species nearly allied to it is found. The same thing occurs with the *Labiata* and *Compositæ*. In the genus *Bucculatrix*, all the species of which the larva were known till last year were tree-feeders, oak, elm, hawthorn and alder; last year *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* is discovered to be the food of two species of *Bucculatrix*: this year a third is found on *Aster Tripolium*.

In species similar in structure, diversity of habit will prevail: thus *Coleo-*

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\* The words in Italics were accidentally omitted in the impression of last week.

*phora albitarsella*, *aleyonipennuella* and *fuscedinella*, all agree in having the base of the antennæ not sealy, a character which would prevent them being placed in Mr. Westwood's genus *Porrectaria* (vide 'Intelligencer, p. 88): yet whereas *Albitarsella* affects the *Labiata*; *Aleyonipennuella* shews a predilection for *Centaurea*, a genus of *Compositæ*; and *Fuscedinella* takes a loftier position among the *Amentaceæ*.

way to the Brushes, and a Day there in April." He also exhibited a box of varieties: in it was *Geometra lunaria*, taken by Mr. Robinson, having one light under wing; the remainder of the insect perfect: and a box in which were *Lithocolletis Vacciniella* and *Nepticula Weaveri* bred from larva collected by Mr. T. Hague at the Brushes. Mr. Gregson also read a paper on the food of the British species of the genus *Eupithecia*, with remarks on some of the species.

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#### NORTHERN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Manchester, June 14th: B. Cooke, Esq., President, in the Chair.

David Dyson, Esq., the Central American traveller, was at the Meeting as a visitor, and was unanimously elected an honorary member.

Mr. Carter exhibited, on the part of Mr. Buxton, a box of recently captured insects: amongst them were nine *Scopula decrepitalis* and eight *Röslerstammia Erxlebelli* taken in the North.

Mr. Greening exhibited a splendid variety of *Hadena contigua*, and a beautiful *Notodonta Dodonæa*, taken at Delamere a few day's ago.

Mr. N. Cooke, amongst other things, exhibited a series of *Dermestes vulpinis*, larva, pupa and imago.

Amongst the portraits of entomologists, that of Augustus F. Sheppard, Esq., was much admired.

Mr. Dyson exhibited a box of insects captured during the week; the most interesting species in it being *Incurvaria tenuicornis*, taken at Egerton's Wood by beating *sallows*.

Mr. Gregson exhibited the contents of a box: in it were specimens of *Colcophora Vitisella*, n. s., bred from eases on *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa* at the Brushes, and read a description of the insect. He afterwards read a paper entitled, "The

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#### ERRATA.

Page 91, second column, line 8, for "Bireh Wood" read "Kuoek Wood," a wood near Tenterden.

At page 99, first column, lines 6 and 7, dele "J. JENNER WEIR, *Pembury Green*; June 24, 1856," which by a typographical error got appended to Mr. Edwards' communication.

Page 104, second column, line 5, for "becomes the subject" read "become the subjects."

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**MOUNTED POCKET LENSES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF INSECTS;** at 1s., 1s. 6d., 3s., 4s., 5s. 6d.; 4d. extra by post, safely packed: of F. T. HUDSON, Optician, 19, Stockwell Street, Greenwich, Kent.

Price 1s.

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**THE ZOOLOGIST: A POPULAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY.**

The Number for July contains several important Entomological Papers.

London: John Van Voorst.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, July 5, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 15.]

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## DO YOU DOUBLE UP YOUR PERAMBULATORS ?

THE collecting season is now at its height ; perhaps on that very account a few hints to facilitate the collecting of insects may not be unacceptable.

We often hear the complaint, " I cannot stoop to collect larvæ on low plants, it gives me the head ache : if I kneel down to look in the grass it gives me the cramp." But there is no occasion either to stoop or " to double up your perambulators ;" it is much better to stretch them out at full length ; and if you lie down on your stomach you will find your eyes are just at a nice distance from the ground for seeing, and you will be able to see more at your ease than either the stupid stooper or the cramped kneeler. Of course if you are on sloping ground it is best to keep the head uppermost ; for instance it would be very awkward to collect long on the steep parts of Box Hill reclining in an inverted position : indeed, with this hot sun making the grass so slippery, it soon gets hard enough work to retain your position on the slope with your head uppermost, for, obedient to the law of gravity, you will be apt to find yourself slowly descending the heights whether with your own consent or not. Of course if the ground be

wet it is desirable to spread a macintosh before you previous to prostrating yourself, otherwise rheumatism may result, or you might get afflicted with ague.

It is by creeping slowly and cautiously over the ground that discoveries must be made ; and however sparingly they may unfold themselves to your view, you may be quite sure that every square foot of ground in such a place as the Hilly Field, at Headley Lane, shelters an enormous amount of insect life.

An unusual number of discoveries have been made, not whilst entomologists were looking for insects, but while they were resting discussing some luncheon : for one thing they then remain stationary in one spot for some little time ; but we fancy the main cause of discoveries being then made is, that as they are not specially looking on any plant any moving thing that enters their field of view more readily attracts attention. Twice during the month of July has Professor Zeller, on such occasions, found a case-bearing larva, which put its head out indifferently at either end of its case, and was as lively and tremulous as a *Gelechia* larva. Can any of our readers find such a thing ? Of course it is not recommended that entomologists should spend the whole day in eating lunch with the view of making a greater number of discoveries.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 2s. 8d. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday next as usual. Trains leave London Bridge for the Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, July 23rd.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Several interesting communications*

*which reached us on Wednesday are held over till next week.*

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BACK NUMBERS OF THE 'INTELLIGENCER.'—The price of No. 1 is now *twopence*: all the other numbers may still be had at one penny each.

A. SIDGWICK, RUGBY.—You would have been indeed clever if you had succeeded in naming your smaller Lepidoptera from Westwood and Humphrey's. The *Eupithecia* is *lærigata*; the *Simasthis Fabriciana* and the *Tortrix* is *Ephippiphora Brunnichiana*.

A. J. W.—The female of *Globularia* is a dear *little* thing; she is only half the size of her illustrious consort: if you had found one you would know it at once.

RUSTICUS.—We must decline giving any answer to decide a bet; you had perhaps better apply to a Sporting Journal for the name of the anonymous author.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Captures of Lepidoptera.*—Two or three days ago I captured *Ino Statices*, *Euthemonia Russula*, and *Nemophila Plantaginis*. I shall have a few duplicates of the two last named if any of your readers wish for them.—F. KNIGHT, *Melbourne Place, Aston, near Birmingham*; July 4, 1856.

*Anthrocera Mimos in duplicate.*—I have taken this insect in abundance, and shall be glad to hear from any one in want of it.—EDWIN BIRCHALL, 27, *Eden Quay, Dublin*; July 3, 1856.

*Cucullia Verbasei.*—I am sorry to inform your readers that my moths are *Verbasei* and not *Scrophulariæ*: they have, however, taught me not to be in such a hurry in future.—R. F. TURNBULL, 4, *Chatham Place, Ramsgate*; July 4, 1856.

*Captures on the top of Snowdon.*—Today, on the top of Snowdon, I took *Abraxas Ulmaria* sitting on a rock. Has it ever before been found in Wales?—E. C. BUXTON; July 3, 1856.

*The New British Tineæ.*—On the 29th June I went to search among the *Epilobium angustifolium* on Box Hill, (where on the 22nd I first discovered *Laverna Raschkiella*, and drew the attention of my friend Mr. Standish to it, who in the afternoon took the other novelty *L. conturbatella*). After about four hours' search I succeeded in taking seven specimens of *L. Raschkiella*, and many very fine specimens of *L. conturbatella*.—W. MACHIN, 35, William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End; July 4, 1856.

*Ennomos Illustraria.*—I am now breeding the summer brood of this insect; it is, as expected, the variety called *Sublunaria*.—IBID.

*Captures of Lepidoptera in Wales.*—On the 28th June I met Mr. Greening by appointment at Chester, proceeded by excursion train to Mold, and thence on foot to Llanferris, where we took *Botys terrealis* freely: we found a pupa of it among dead leaves and moss; it produced the perfect insect two hours afterwards. We also found several pupæ of *Agrotis Ashworthii* and *cataleuca* made up in moss between the loose stones on the face of the rocks. We captured *Lamprosetia Verhuellega* on its food plant, which grows freely on some parts of the mountains: they fly in the hot sunshine, but are easily taken in the evening; touch the plant with the finger and they come out: they copulate about half-past seven P. M. We took *Eupithecia constrictaria*, *denotata*, and *subfulvata*? *Polyommatus Alsus* and *Agestis* were in hundreds flying over *Geranium sanguineum*. *Pterophorus plagiodactylus* was in fine condition. Persons wanting these species should lose no time in going after them.—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge*

*Lane, Stanley, Lancashire; July 2, 1856.*

*Note.*—Persons addressing C. S. GREGSON will please observe that though he has not removed, the post-office has: it will now be requisite to drop *Old Swan*, and write *Stanley, Lancashire*.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Rotherham.*—I took, on the 10th June, several fine specimens of *Lobophora hexapteraria*. On the 25th I took several fine *Ceropacha fluctuosa*.—W. M. RODGERS, *Moorgate Grove, Rotherham; June 28, 1856.*

*An Entomological Excursion.*—Mr. G. Oliver and Mr. C. Lincoln, two friends, and myself, having arranged for a trip, we started on Thursday morning last, June 26th. The spot proposed as a hunting-ground is about twenty miles distant, and is one of the most delightful that can be imagined: it lies about five miles east of Lynn; we passed through that town on to the Grayton Road. Three miles from Lynn is Bawsey Bottom: here we took *Argynnis Selene*, *Pamphila Sylvanus*, and *Euclidia Glyphica*. After proceeding a mile and a half further we took a cross road to the left, which brought us to our destination, the "Sugar" fen and "Great" common in the village of Grimstone: we had often visited this locality before as botanists: it is exceedingly rich in specimens of bog and other plants, viz., *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Drosera*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Hydrocharis Morsus-Ranæ*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Circæa lutetiana*, *Osmunda regalis*, &c., &c. The country is here diversified by heath, common, and bog, and there are some beautifully retired spots where the entomologist may prowl about without fear of interruption. There are many oak trees and white and blackthorn bushes, about which the woodbine and wild rose twine in loving profusion, and *Ulex Europæus* and *Pteris aquilina* fill up the intermediate spaces: here we found empty pupa-cases of

*Lasiocampa Rubi* (I have some specimens bred from larvæ taken there last autumn): there too *Thecla Rubi* is to be found. We also met with *C. Jacobææ*, *Euclidia Mi*, and larvæ and pupæ of *Anthrocera Trifolii*: we had a delightful day.—JAMES BALDING, *Wisbech*; *June 28*, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera in Sussex.*—During the last few days we have taken  
*Nemeobius Lucina*,  
*Melitæa Artemis*,  
*Argynnis Selene*,  
 „ *Euphrosyne*,  
*Thecla Rubi*,  
*Thymele Alveolus* not plentiful,  
*Thanaos Tages* in numbers,  
 and at sugar  
*Thyatira batis*.

—E. SILVESTER and W. EDWARDS, *Pound Hill, Worth, Sussex*; *July 5*, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near West Wickham.*—During the last three weeks I have taken at West Wickham, Addington, and the vicinity,

*Leucophasia Sinapis*,  
*Melitæa Artemis*,  
*Hipparchia Hyperanthus*,  
*Polyommatus Agestis*,  
*Thanaos Tages*,  
*Pamphila sylvanus*,  
*Procris Statices*,  
*Sesia fueiformis*,  
*Aretia villica*,  
*Biston Betularius*,  
*Euchelia Jacobææ*,  
*Lithosia rubricollis*,  
*Euclidia Mi*,  
*Ourapteryx Sambucaria*.

—ALFRED SIMSON, *Norwood*; *July 7*, 1856.

*Duplicate pupæ of Lasiocampa Trifolii.*  
 —I have a great many of these pupæ; and if any one wants them I shall be most happy to send them whilst my stock lasts.—J. B. RYDER, 15, *Navy Row, Morice Town, Devonport*; *July 4*, 1856.

*Larvæ of Cucullia Chamomilla.*—

Those who want these larvæ should look after them now, as many of mine have changed to pupæ.—IBID.

*Deilephila Galii.*—I have just bred a fine female from a larva taken here in August last: I expect two more out in a few days.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; *July 6*, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera.*—July 1st, at Martin, in Kent, I found a pine wood swarming with *Guophria rubricollis*. I took several pupæ in the tips of the furze, and they have since produced *Anarsia spartiella*. July 3rd, at Taylor's Hill, Hospital Wood, near Canterbury, I met with *Melitæa Athalia* and *Botys lanealis*. July 4th, on the sand-hills here, I obtained *Timandra emutaria*, *Lozogramma lineolaria* (this insect is out from May to November), and *Cledeobia Augustalis*. I am now breeding *Coleophora albitarsella* from larvæ taken at Darenth in April.—IBID.

*Duplicates of Dianthæcia conspersa.*—Within the last ten days I have bred some fine specimens of this insect. Is any one in want of the species?—C. NELSON, M.D., *Dunbar*; *July 7*, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Brighton.*  
 —*Neuria Saponaria* has been unusually numerous here. Mr. Winter and I have taken very fine specimens. We are now taking *Dentalis*, *Irrorella*, *Aceris* and *Conspersa*.—A. I. WIGGINTON, *Sussex County Hospital, Brighton*; *July 4*, 1856.

*Larvæ of Anybia Langiella.*—It had been for some time a stumbling-block, that, whereas on the Continent the larva of this species was found mining the leaves of *Epilobium hirsutum*, here we could not find it on that plant. I remember, four years ago, when Professor Zeller was here, Mr. Douglas showed him discoloured but not mined leaves of the *Epilobium*; and on the Professor enquiring why he showed him these leaves, Mr. Douglas replied, "To show you that in them there are no larvæ;"

whereon Professor Zeller naïvely replied, "I also can show you leaves in which are no larvæ."

Till last summer, when Mr. Boyd found the larva in the *Circea*, we had never met with it here. The rediscovery of the larvæ in the same plant by Mr. Parfitt was recorded in our last number.

Since then I have received a further supply from Mr. Parfitt, who writes, "Some of these are mining the leaves of *Circea*, and others the leaves of *Epilobium montanum* and *hirsutum*. They appear to prefer the leaves of *E. montanum* to anything else; for generally the parenchyma of every leaf in a plant of *montanum* is entirely eaten away, leaving nothing but the white cuticles, so that the plants are rendered very conspicuous; but when they attack the leaves of *Circea* the larvæ only make large irregular blotches."—H. T. STAINTON; *July 8, 1856.*

*Melitea Athalia and Artemis.*—I have found another locality for *Athalia*: it is at a gentleman's estate called Fordlands, about three miles from Exeter; but it is not common there. I also took a few specimens of *Artemis* flying with them.—E. PARFITT; *June 30, 1856.*

*Double-broodedness.*—I do not think *Ocerostoma piniariella* double-brooded; it is certainly a continuous appearer in my boxes: many pine feeders are the same. I have been breeding *Fasciaria* all the season from larvæ taken in March and April, not a quarter of an inch long: some made up in three weeks, some are still in the larva and pupa state. The same remarks apply to *Simularia*. *Pini-perda* larvæ can be taken just hatched at the same time, and can now be found very small, whilst some of the same batch are full-fed: this is an insect which remains out a long time, or in other words keeps coming out, like *Gothica*, but it cannot be called double-brooded because we take it in March and June, and I

think *Piniariella* will be found to do the same.—C. S. GREGSON; *June 27, 1856.*

*Why do Lepidoptera recently hatched hang their wings downwards?*—I perceive this question has again been brought before the entomologists of Great Britain: allow me to throw out an idea. When a long stick or pole is held in a perpendicular line we have only *the weight of the pole*, no matter whether we hold it by the base or by the top, (letting it hang downwards); but if it is supported at right angles, or any inclined angle, then we have the weight of the pole increased in proportion to the distance that the fulcrum is from the opposite end of the pole. From this it is evident that the position of the wings is the easiest to the insect, requiring less muscular exertion to support them. I have bred many Lepidoptera, and have found the wings of most of the species "appear to grow;" and as the wings, at the time of escape from the pupa, bear but small proportion to the size they afterwards obtain, it requires but small effort, on the part of the insect, to get them to the perpendicular, and the wings meet at the tip over the thorax; thus each affords support to the other. I have invariably found that when the wings of *C. Jacobææ* are at right angles at the time of growing they are more or less crumpled.—E. S. NORCOMBE, *Heavitree; June 28, 1856.*

*Capture of Omaloptia ruricola (COL.).*—I took a pair of this insect on a chalky bank, covered with wild thyme, on the edge of a copse, at the foot of the downs above Parham Park, near Pulborough, Sussex, on the 3rd inst.—H. T. GORE, *Rusper Rectory, Horsham; July 5, 1856.*

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ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Monday, July 7, 1856. W. W. Saunders, Esq., President, in the chair.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY.**—A ballot for the election of a Secretary, in the room of Mr. Douglas, who had resigned that office, took place. Mr. Janson was elected to the vacant post.

Dr. Gray moved, and Mr. Westwood seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Douglas for his long and able services to the Society, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

**THE PRESIDENT'S COLD COLLATION.**—Mr. Douglas moved, and Dr. Gray seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Saunders for the hospitable entertainment he had given the members of the Society, at Reigate, on the 21st June. Carried unanimously.

**ORGANIC REMAINS IN AMBER.**—Mr. Westwood called the attention of the meeting to a folio work of the late Dr. Berendt 'On the Organische Reste in Bernstein,' and stated that the widow of the renowned entomologist was anxious to dispose of her late husband's extensive collection of insects in amber. Mr. Westwood recommended it to the consideration of Dr. Gray.

Dr. Gray, in reply, drew attention to the numerous frauds practised on the amber-insect collectors, showing that the system of passing off foreign specimens as indigenous, was not peculiar to the British Entomologists.

**EXHIBITION OF RARE LEPIDOPTERA.**—Mr. Douglas exhibited specimens of *Lamprosetia Verhuelletella* bred from *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*, found on the walls of the ruins at Caerphilly, by Mr. Drane; *Bucculatrix maritima*, bred from *Aster Tripolium*; and *Laverna Raschkiella* and *conturbatella*, the recent capture of which by Mr. Standish and Mr. Machin is recorded in the 'Intelligencer.'

Mr. Stevens exhibited a pair of *Heterogenea Asellus* from the New Forest, and his bred specimens of *Agdistes Bennetti*.

Mr. A. F. Sheppard exhibited a specimen of *Gastropacha ilicifolia* from Cannoch Chase, and the two *Lavernæ* above mentioned.

Mr. E. Shepherd exhibited specimens of *Scopula decrepitalis*, taken by Mr. Buxton in Ross-shire.

**MR. FOXCROFT'S MOVEMENTS.**—Mr. Stevens exhibited a box of Scotch insects from Mr. Foxcroft, who had left the northern locality, and was now in Wales, where he was taking *Chrysomela Cerealis*.

**INSECTS FROM HONG-KONG.**—Mr. Adam White exhibited several interesting Coleoptera, taken in Hong-Kong, by Mr. J. C. Bowring (who had recently returned to England from ill-health), including *Monohammus Bowringii*, n.sp., and *Sagra femorata*. Of this latter species the cocoons were also exhibited, and Mr. Bowring gave some interesting details concerning them.

**LIVING FIRE-FLIES.**—The exhibition of the evening was by Mr. Wilkinson, who had brought some live fire-flies (*Pyrophorus noctilucus*). These were placed in a basin of water, and emitted a very brilliant pale greenish light. The fire-flies had been carefully brought over from Havaamah, and had given out a much stronger light when they first arrived in this country than they exhibited before the Society.

**INSECTS FOR DISTRIBUTION.**—Mr. Westwood brought for distribution among the members living specimens of *Coleophora Laricella* and pupæ of *C. Heimerbiella*.

**LARVÆ INJURIOUS TO WHEAT AND GRASS-SEEDS.**—Dr. Calvert exhibited some larvæ of *Caradrina cubicularis*, which he had found injurious to wheat. He also exhibited seeds of *Festuca*, most of which showed marks of having been operated upon by some insect. He also



exhibited seeds of *Festuca loliacea*, which, he said, the larvæ did not appear to attack at all.

Mr. Stainton read a paper 'On the recent Progress of Micro-Lepidopterology on the Continent,' of which the following is the concluding passage:—

"During the last month an unpretending 8vo volume of 430 pages, without plates, has appeared, which at once takes its stand as *the* Continental work on the TINEINA.

"It is impossible to over-estimate the value, the utility of Professor Frey's 'Die Tineen und Pterophoren der Schweiz;' though specially applying only to the *Tineæ* of Switzerland, yet, as few of the species are peculiarly Swiss, and even those may be found elsewhere if well sought for, it will, on account of the immense amount of systematized details it gives of the habits of the families, genera and species, and of their geographical distribution throughout Europe, be read with extreme interest in every corner of Germany, and indeed wherever the German language is understood. It is hardly possible to conceive a more enjoyable book for a student of the TINEINA. In the genus *Lithocolletis* eight pages are devoted to *Pomifoliella*, *Oxyacanthæ*, *Cydoniella*, *Sorbi*, *Torminella* and *Cerasicolella*! In the genus *Nepticula* at least *eight new species* are described!!

"Frey's work will not in any way interfere with the usefulness of Herrich-Schäffer's: each renders the other of more use than it otherwise would have been. It is worked out in a somewhat similar style to my volume of the 'Insecta Britannica,' but far more completely, going far more into detail, and discussing, as already noticed, the geographical distribution throughout Europe of each species, genus and family. Besides, it incorporates all the latest and most recent discoveries, and rectifies errors

committed by Herrich-Schäffer or myself. In short, this volume clearly establishes the reputation of Professor Frey, of Zurich, as THE FIRST MICRO-LEPIDOPTERIST IN EUROPE."

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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NATURAL HISTORY REVIEW.—We are requested to state that the paper of the Dublin Geological Society's Journal 'On the Lower Carboniferous Beds of the Peninsula' mentioned on the wrapper of the July number, just published, as being in that number, has been unavoidably held over till the next number. Purchasers must not, therefore, imagine that their copies are incomplete.

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#### FRAGMENT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A PAIR OF LAVERNA IDÆI.

SCENE: A Lancashire Moor.

*Male.* Well, I've been all about, and can find no raspberry-bushes but these.

*Femule.* Then I suppose we must stop here, but I would rather have shifted quarters.

*M.* Oh! never mind; no one will think of looking for us; I quite laugh at the idea.

*F.* You'd better not; or somebody else may have a laugh at the Idæi.

*M.* He! he! he! Not bad, Mrs. I. Upon my word you're as witty as you're handsome.

*F.* That's saying a great deal, for I believe we're the handsomest of a handsome genus.

*M.* We're the biggest, at any rate; half as big again as *Conturbatella*, and that's no chicken.

*F.* And bigger than *Ochraceella*. Heigho! we are all the more likely to be looked after. You didn't see any one on the moor with a net, did you?

*M.* Oh, yes! I saw three or four fellows laughing and smoking away: they seemed too full of fun to do much mischief.

*F.* Were they natives?

*M.* I think so.

*F.* Oh! then I'm not much afraid; the Lancashire collectors have so much "brag" in them, that I never fancy they do much work.

*M.* Very true; they're precious like Yankees.

*F.* Well, it is time I went to my siesta, I've found a snugly-sheltered leaf. Mind you keep a sharp look-out, and let me know if any one comes.

*M.* Good gracious! here's some one been standing behind us taking notes all the time.

*F.* You don't say so! if it gets into print—

*M.* Why then we shall have the Lancashire collectors down upon us for your making game of them.

*F.* Perhaps they'll be *annexing* us to their collections.

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NOTES AND QUERIES, BY J. O. WESTWOOD, ESQ.

*Raspberry feeding-larva.*—I have just had brought me some caterpillars, about an inch long and moderately robust, which were found feeding upon raspberry-leaves, the cluster of eggs from which they produced being of large size, and fixed at the end of one of the leaves: they are jet black, slightly clothed with grayish hairs; the head with two converging slender yellow lines on the face; each of the segments of the body with a transverse series of about six round orange-coloured spots, each bearing a black wart and a number of short black spines. As I do not know such a larva, nor is it represented by Hübner, I shall be glad if any of your readers can give me its name.—J. O. W.

REPLY TO J. O. W's QUERY.—Mr. Westwood has probably discovered, by this time, that his raspberry-feeder is the young larva of the Emperor Moth (*Saturnia Paronia-Minor*); but this answer will perhaps be useful to some of the rising generation.

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ERRATUM.—In our last number at page 110, second column, line 11, for "cut *only* a small oval case" read "cut *out* a small oval case."

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CABINET FOR SALE.—For sale, a 14-drawer mahogany insect-cabinet, corked and glazed (to be sold on reasonable terms). To be seen at 1, Bedford Street, York Street, Walworth.

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Now ready, price 3s.,

**JUNE:**

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY  
IN SUMMER TIME.

By H. T. STAINTON.

"A seasonable, most pleasant and instructive little book."—*Lloyd's Weekly News*.

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"The work will be found a pleasant little companion, whose tendency is to lead to observation of the smaller and too often neglected beauties of Nature which abound around us."—*The Friend*.

London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, July 12, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 16.]

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.

## THE INFORMATION POSSESSED BY INDIVIDUALS NOT ALWAYS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNITY.

—

IN a paper recently read before the Entomological Society of London, the following sentence occurred.

“When a general work on a group of insects has appeared each entomologist seeks there for the name of any species he may chance to meet with, and if he happens to find it there well and good, but if not he probably describes it in some scientific journal or the ‘Transactions’ of some learned society, but were the general work non-existent he would feel utterly disheartened at the apparent impossibility of naming his capture; there would be no pleasure in catching a new species, and the science would stand still.”

To this it was objected that the progress of science was not necessarily dependent upon systematic works; but is there not some equivocal; what is meant by *science and its progress*? Science progresses when one generation of men knows more of any given branch of knowledge than the preceding generation: science is stationary when the one generation knows no more than its predecessor: science is retrograding where the new generation knows less than that which preceded it. All branches of science have fits of movement, are some-

times stationary and sometimes retrograde. An Owen may push forward science to an advanced outpost; but if he does not systematise his knowledge for those coming after him, the outwork not being sufficiently supported, is liable to be lost, it lapses to the mass of *incognita*, and is, perhaps, not reattained for centuries.

The knowledge attained by an *individual*, unless rendered available to others, may be no gain to science: at his death all his thoughts perish, and all his knowledge is lost for ever. Who can calculate the loss sustained by the death of Edward Forbes? simply, in his case, by the loss of undeveloped, half-formed ideas; but suppose, and such instances do occur, he had amassed stores of information which he was carefully treasuring up to form, at some distant day, a valuable scientific work, and suppose that every scrap of knowledge he was thus collecting were carefully kept to himself, not to be made known to others till the due period had arrived, is it not evident that the knowledge he thus obtained might be no real gain to science, for it might all be lost again?

An individual may have a fund of information, and without meaning to be selfish may, from supineness, indifference, love of ease, or the *dolce far niente*, allow his information to be useless to others.

We look upon it as the bounden duty of all who acquire information at once to render it available to others; and we recommend all writers of isolated papers to view the systematising of their researches as the greatest possible step to the onward progress of science.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 2s. 6d. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, *Momtsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday next.

Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, July 30th.

Mr. STANTON will be at Mickleham this evening, Saturday, July 19th, and will proceed up Headley Lane at 7 p. m.: if any entomologist from Dorking or vicinity wishes to meet him in Headley Lane he will be happy to meet him there. Mr. S. will turn down the same lane on

Sunday afternoon at 3.15 p. m., and on Monday evening at 6.30 p. m.

*Sat verbum sapienti.*

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Several interesting communications which reached us on Wednesday are held over till next week.*

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BACK NUMBERS OF THE 'INTELLIGENCER.'—The price of No. 1 is now *twopennee*: all the other numbers may still be had at one penny each.

R. G., CHELTENHAM.—Your larva is probably the Tiger (*Aretia eaja*).

C. R. L., ELLASTONE.—Leaf-mining larvæ should be kept in air-tight vessels; glass tubes corked at each end, jam-pots ground and covered with plate-glass, or tight-fitting tins. A muslin bag may be tied on the branch on which they are feeding, but this would not do if it rained, as the bag would get sobby, stick to the mined leaves, and drown the tenants.

F. M., BIRMINGHAM.—*Dispar* is reputed only a local variety of *Hippothoë*. If you read Wollaston 'On the Variation of Species' you will probably come to the same conclusion. — Bodies only.

S. H.—Name shall appear in 'Annual for 1857.'

G. C., GLOUCESTER.—We cannot recognise your moth from your description.

W. B., CROSS INN.—The insect sent was *Cænonympha Pamphilus*. Look out for *Davis* on the hill tops.

E. G. C.—Your insects are too common: we shall be happy to announce any rarities you may meet with.

S. B.—Your larvæ on raspberry are not Lepidopterous; they belong to one of the saw-flies, and will, no doubt, prove injurious to your bushes.

T. L. C.—The larva on wild parsnep will, no doubt, be the Large Flat-body (*Depressaria Heracliana*.) The pale moth, of which you took a colony of larvæ, is *Seythropia Cratægella*. The dark moth from rushes is *Glyphipteryx Thrasonella*. The domestic moth is *Tinea Granella*. If you visit Trench Wood please search for the *Genista Tinetoria* (Dyer's Green-weed) on which the *Coleophora Vibicella* feeds.

FREY'S WORK.—Several of our readers have written to us to enquire the price of this useful and instructive book. This question we cannot at present answer, as our copy did not reach us through the trade, and we have not heard the price mentioned. The title is 'Die Tineen und Pterophoren der Schweiz,' von Prof. Frey; Zurich, Verlag von Meyer und Zeller, 1856.

W. T., WAKEFIELD.—Your *Cerura* larvæ will eat either willow or poplar: try them with both.

28th I took another specimen, but in this the markings were brown. The locality was a group of fir trees from forty-eight to fifty in number, opposite Porchester Terrace.—T. R. OXLEY, London; July 8, 1856.

*Doubleday's List wanted*.—I shall be glad to purchase one of Mr. Doubleday's lists for labelling Lepidoptera if any of your readers have one to part with.—F. MEYER, 17, Sand Street, Birmingham; July 8, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Brighton*.—*Neuria Saponariae* has been rather abundant here during the last week or two: I never before met with it as a common insect. Nearly all that I have taken of this species at sugar have been females, and those which I have taken at light have been males. Can you account for this fact? I have taken a single specimen of *Agrotis cinerea* at sugar on June 25.—JOHN N. WINTER, 28, Montpellier Road; July 6, 1856.

*Lepidoptera at Shooter's Hill*.—Being on a visit here I have had a day or two in the neighbouring woods to see what they would produce in the way of Lepidoptera: my exertions have been almost entirely confined to beating and searching for larvæ. Since the 30th of June I have beaten off oak two larvæ of *Notodonta chaonia*, one *N. trepida*, three *Ceropaeha ridens*, and a dozen or so of *Biston prodromarius*; off birch one *Notodonta dietæoides*, one *N. dromedarius*, and several *N. camelina*, one of which is nearly half-grown, and will, I hope, spin up and produce a moth in August, thus proving it to be double-brooded beyond a doubt. On aspen I found the eggs and larvæ of *Notodonta dictæa* and *Pterostoma palpina*, and two or three larvæ of *Closteria reclusa* or *curtula* full-grown: I also saw two others not long hatched. Off honeysuckle I beat a small larva of *Sesia fueiformis*; it is feeding well, and I hope I may be able to rear it. To-day I found upwards of twenty larvæ

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## COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Lists of Lepidoptera*.—Owing to the great demand for my lists I am suddenly sold out; and as I shall not have any more ready for two months *no more need apply at present*.—THOMAS CHAPMAN, Glasgow; July 7, 1856.

*Tortrix pinivorana*.—I took a curious variety of this insect in Kensington Gardens on the 22nd of June, being almost black instead of the usual brown colour. [Is it really the same species?] On the

of *Psyche fusca*\* on birch and bramble. Whilst beating the oaks last week I was fortunate enough to knock out six *Limacodes testudo*; only two of them are good: it is a very active insect, and batters itself about terribly: I saw two more, but unfortunately lost them. Within the last three weeks I have bred seven or eight *Setina irrorella* from larvæ which I found in May, feeding upon ground lichens, on the beach near Southsea. My larvæ of *N. trepida*, reared from eggs laid by the female which I took in Hampshire, are now nearly full-grown, and will, I hope, spin up in the course of a few days. — H. HARPUR CREWE, *Shooter's Hill, Kent*; July 7, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera at Pembury, Kent.*—I have taken the following species during the last week in June and the first in July, viz., *Crambus uliginosellus*, *Botys laucealis*, and *Pionea stramentalis*, flying together on a boggy side of a hill known as the Miller's Wood; the two latter occurred more commonly in the lowest ground, and the first in an open space where the asphodel and sundew grew in great profusion amongst the sedges and rushes; the females, when on the wing, looked whiter than *Pascuellus*, their under wings being much purer in colour; the males appeared darker, and the broad silvery basal streak was nearly divided into two by a suffused brown line. *Macaria notata* was not rare, but one out of every three taken had an under wing entirely absent, and one specimen flew tolerably well with both the under wings abortive. *Apatela leporina* occurred on birch stems. *Eupæcilia ambiguana* flying about birch bushes in the evening. *Ceropacha fluctuosa* was beaten from birches during the day. *Epione adversaria* was scarce and much worn. *Zerene albicollaria* occurred sparingly on the wing in the evening. *Bucculatrix frangulella* was common on

the *Rhamnus frangula*. — J. JENNIE WEIR, 20, *Maismore Square, Old Kent Road*; July 2, 1856.

*Abraxas Ulmaria.*—In reply to Mr. Buxton's question at p. 115, this insect is plentiful where Wych elm grows in several parts of Wales: I saw it at Llanferas last week. Many persons are under the erroneous impression that this is a scarce insect. — C. S. GREGSON; July 14, 1856.

*Phleodes geminana*, Steph. (LEP.). — I am now breeding this species from larvæ taken at Delamere Forest on *Vaccinium Myrtellus*.—IBID.

*Pacilochroma stabilana*, Steph. (LEP.). — This very variable species I am now breeding from the *Myrica Gale*.—IBID.

*Attractiveness of Glyceria fluitans to Moths.*—That this grass, when in bloom, was very palatable to *Noctuæ* was known to me long ago: and the same fact was also discovered by Messrs. Bedell and Douglas in 1845; but I had certainly no conception till the other evening of the extent to which the flowers of the *Glyceria* are sticky. If you draw your hand several times across a batch of this grass at this season of the year you will find that your fingers are about as sticky as if you had dipped them in a solution of sugar. I do not know that the *Glyceria* proves attractive to rarities, though many of the commoner species will swarm at it; but it may be serviceable to some incipients to know that the swampy edges of ditches and ponds will furnish them with plants ready sugared. — H. T. STAINTON; July 14, 1856.

*Larva of Elachista Pfeifferella* (LEP.). — Last week I received some of these from Professor Frey, and at once discovered that I had been collecting it the previous week as *Treitschkiella*: like that species it blotches the leaves of the dogwood, but as might be imagined, larva, blotch, and case, of *Pfeifferella*, are all larger than those of *Treitschkiella*; but the head of the larva of

\* Could Mr. Crewe oblige us with some?

*Treitschkiella* is black, whereas in *Pfeiferella* the head is pale brown, a difference very evident when the blotched leaf is held up to the light.—IBID.

*Vanessa Polychloros*.—This was rather common about here last year, and will, I think, very likely be so again this year. I have found several pupæ, and I know of others who have found them rather abundantly during the last week or two.—F. H. F., *Eton*; July 4, 1856.

*Larva of Tinea bistrigella*.—I have been collecting these larvæ this morning; many have already cut out their cases and gone, but some may still be found in their blotches, and more may be met with in their long galleries, galleries so long and so thin that the eye that has once made acquaintance with them will not easily forget their peculiar appearance; they are invariably near the end of the shoot of the birch twig, and though rarely in the terminal leaf, are like the clever school-boy whose class consisted at most of three, or sometimes only two, "top but two," or "top but one," just as it may happen. Has *Tinea argentimaculella* a similar habit; if so, what does it feed on? And what is it that cuts out cases in the alder leaves?—H. T. STAINTON; *St. Swithin's*, July 15, 1856.

*Capture of Tinea Merdella*.—On the 11th inst., and again to-day, I have taken a number of specimens of this species in a wool warehouse: the room contains wool from Naples, Trieste, Peru, and Australia, and they may have been imported from any of these places in the larva state: but who is to prove it? I believe they have bred in the room, and therefore claim a place in the British list for the species, as I think it has just as much right there as some other species taken in and about warehouses. I strongly suspect that *Merdella* is a very common species in the foreign wool warehouses of Liverpool, London, and the manufacturing districts.—NICHOLAS COOKE, *Liverpool*; July 14, 1856.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Holywell*.—This season I have taken *Abraxas Ulmaria* in great abundance through the district of Holywell. Also *Pamphila sylvanus*, *P. comma*, *Thanaos Tages*, *Anthroceres Trifolii*, and *Fidonia piniaria*, in plenty.—F. ARCHER, *Glyn Abbot, Holywell*; July 4, 1856.

*Hyponomeuta Irrorellus*.—I am again breeding this insect; and if any one still wants it I shall be happy to hear from him.—W. KIRBY, *South Street, Wandsworth, Surrey*; July 14, 1856.

*Agrotis Ashworthii*, *Cataleuca*, and *Lupernia furva* bred.—From the pupæ taken June 28th to 30th (see 'Intelligencer,' p. 115) these three species have appeared on the 10th, 12th, and 13th of this month. On the 10th July I took *Gelechia politella* at Llanferris, and Mrs. Gregson secured, what I had been a week looking for, the *cognaria* form of *Eupithecia subfulvaria*. The weather was wet; I sugared for *A. Ashworthii* without success, but a party there took it there; they went up the mountain after we had given up for the night, and, if I am correctly informed, found it sipping the sweets on a fir tree at midnight.—C. S. GREGSON, *Stanley, Lancashire*; July 13, 1856.

*The original Drepana Sicula*.—Previous to the recent capture of this insect recorded in your pages I believe the *only British specimen of Sicula* existing was one taken by myself in the middle of July, either in 1837 or 1838, in the same locality mentioned by your correspondent, the Leigh Woods at Clifton. On my leaving Somersetshire for London it was given by me to my friend the Rev. Henry Burney, of Wavendon, and it is, I believe, still in his collection.—ROBT. MITFORD, *Haverstock Place, Hampstead*; July 7, 1856.

*Should the 'Intelligencer' hibernate during the winter?*—I quite agree with your correspondent, Mr. C. E. Bridges, that the discontinuance of the 'Intelli-

gener' during the winter months would be a loss to be deplored by all entomologists: if published during that period it could be made a most valuable medium for imparting information on a variety of useful subjects, and through means of correspondence bring entomologists into more intimate association with each other, thereby tending to emulation and its consequent result, the development of whatever abilities may be lying dormant within them. I have been taking the 'Intelligencer' from its commencement, as well as the 'Moths and Butterflies,' and have induced a couple of parties in Ireland to take a copy also; nor have I any doubt that I can induce others to do so before the end of the season.—J. W. WILKINSON, 47, *Stanley Street, Chelsea*; June 24, 1856.

I hope that you have not decided upon making the 'Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer' hibernate, as I feel assured that its continued publication will be productive of much good to entomologists. If there were any lack of matter for filling its columns, some of the "great guns" could carry on an argument on some entomological subject, to the great satisfaction of the "lesser stars."—WILLIAM BAKER, *Cross Inn, Llanelly*; June 23, 1856.

*Important Intelligence. — Capture of Hyale.* — A specimen has occurred in Sussex this season.

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#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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ON THE VARIATION OF SPECIES; *with especial reference to the Insecta; followed by an Enquiry into the Nature of Genera.* By T. VERNON WOLLASTON, M.A., F.L.S. 8vo, cloth. Price 5s. London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row.

Our previous notice of this book was limited to an epitome of Mr. Wollaston's

views on the causes of variation in insects. We had not space to give then any extracts from the work itself: we now proceed to gratify our readers with a few tit-bits.

The following passage refers to the not unfrequent occurrence of hill-tops teeming with insect life, whilst other hill-tops shows no signs of insect denizens.

"During my researches in mountain-tracts I have usually remarked that the highest points of land either teem with life or else are perfectly barren. My own experience would certainly tend to prove, that, in a general sense, one or other of these extremes does almost constantly obtain; and, although I would not wish to dogmatize on the phenomena which may in reality be explicable on other hypotheses, it would perhaps be worth while to enquire whether the geological movements of subsidence and elevation will not afford some clue to the right interpretation of them. Be this, however, as it may, I can answer that in many countries where there are strong indications of the former the alpine summits harbour an insect population to a singular extent, whilst in others, where the latter is as distinctly traceable, the upland ridges are comparatively untenanted. Now we have already shown that where the gradual lowering of a region has taken place there will be, of necessity, an undue accumulation of life on its loftiest pinnales, for, even allowing a certain number of species (which *even formerly* were only just able to find a sufficient altitude for their development) to have perished, we shall have concentrated at that single elevation the residue of all those which have survived *from the ancient elevation above it*; but if, on the other hand, an area, already peopled, be in parts greatly upheaved, there will be *either* a universal dying-out, from the cold, of a large proportion of its inhabitants, or else an instinctive striving



amongst them to desert the higher grounds on which they have been lifted up, and to descend to their normal altitudes: in both cases, however, the present summits will display the same feature, namely, utter desolation."—Pp. 115, 116.

The following passage draws attention to the connection between the various branches of science.

"We are too apt to draw a line of imaginary demarcation between the sciences, as though each had its own propositions to establish, and nothing more; indeed, some of us would appear to assume (though perhaps tacitly) that what is proved to be true in one department may be, at least, rendered inconsistent (if not actually negated) in another: but surely this requires no argument to refute, since a *principle* which is *true*, is true under every circumstance and condition, for otherwise, it could be both true and false. We need not, therefore, be afraid of comparing truth with truth, under whatever shape it may arrive, as though it were possible that either of its phases could ever suffer from the ordeal of a close contact, since, if they be really true and free from deception they must needs go hand in hand, and *may* become (however opposite they be in their subjects) directly explanatory of each other. The astronomer who is not intimately acquainted with pure mathematical analysis in its various aspects and bearings is, in fact, no astronomer at all. The geologist who would interpret the grand phenomena of the earth's crust apart from statical and dynamical knowledge, and without the help which the chemist, mineralogist, anatomist, zoologist, and botanist, can afford him, stands a fair chance of leaving his problems unsolved, whilst the students of zoology and botany who would endeavour to understand and account for what they see in the animal and vegetable worlds around them, without calling in geology

to their aid, must assuredly be prepared to fail signally in their attempts. All indeed must work in concert, if the whole is to be advanced,—and not only in concert, but as mutually assisting each other. By the help of truths already known, more may be discovered; for those inferences which arise from the application of general truths to the particular things and cases contained under them, must be just."—Pp. 155, 156.

As a good analogy of the gradual awakening of our perceptions to minute specific distinctions where at first all *appears* exactly the same, we quote the following:—

"The Alpine range, when seen from afar, appears a monotonous mass of a dull uniform hue; and nothing, of all the wondrous details which it includes, can be distinguished, except perchance the outline of their jagged peaks projected in faint relief against the distant sky. One by one, however, as we approach it, inequalities present themselves; the surface, which lately seemed so uniform and grey that it could be compared only to a cloud, is found to be cleft by ravines; and valleys, in all their magnificence and breadth, expand slowly to our view. Yet, marvellous as is the change, this is not all: wood and water, without which the landscape would be barren, are in turn revealed; whilst the play of light and shade upon the mountain-slopes proclaims at length that the picture is well nigh complete. Still more to be disclosed, does in reality remain: and we must advance nearer yet if we would either fully realise the whole, or enter into the surprising minutiae of each of its component parts. And so it is with the objects we have been just discussing. When contemplated in a mass, and by an uneducated eye, hosts of them may appear to be identical; but as our vision becomes clearer and more acute, differences, formerly inappreciable, are gradually made manifest,—until at last

we can detect modifications innumerable, throughout the entire length of the living panorama; and are enabled to endorse the belief (repugnant *à priori* though it be) that *individual variations*, even to the extent which I have ventured to suggest, are not incompatible with specific similitudes."—Pp. 17, 18.

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NOTES AND QUERIES, BY J. O. WESTWOOD, ESQ.

*Natural Substitutes for Sugaring.*—Now that the Aphis of the broad-bean is in full work, it may be as well for moth catchers to know, or recollect, that so long as such is the case, and the Aphides emit the saccharine secretion of which ants are so fond, it will be unnecessary to waste their sugar-mixture, as the moths are as fond, or fonder, of that which they obtain from the Aphides.—J. O. W.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 17.]

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## WHY SHOULD SO MANY OF OUR OBSERVATIONS BE USELESS?

*(From a Correspondent).*

—

IN a recent number you advise entomologists to concentrate their attention on some small division of the insect world; and I quite agree in your opinion: but like most things in the world the subject has two sides, and perhaps you would not object to a few words on the other side of the question. The subject is identical with the one, so often discussed, of the comparative value of general information and accurate knowledge of some particular branch of study,—the danger on the one side being the tendency to become superficial and to be satisfied therewith, and on the other to over-estimate the object of pursuit and to miss much that might be acquired at the same time; and I think the giving the principal attention to a particular subject is by no means inconsistent with the eager embrace of every correlative advantage. If we could suppose any one thoroughly up to the present state of knowledge in all branches of entomology the amount of information he would obtain in a day's collecting would equal that of two or three ordinary collectors, and a certain measure of this knowledge is desirable for all. The drawback is that no man can know every thing, and consequently

that only in a small sphere is he fitted to make useful and accurate observation, while in what lies beyond this he needs the assistance of others who have paid their principal attention to those portions of the subject. What is desirable, therefore, seems to be such an amount of general information as will render his observations of the greatest possible value to himself and to others. Every one, whatever be his aim in collecting or his mode of doing so, has constantly brought before him other objects and other information than that which he is looking for, and if he could, without losing or neglecting his main object, select from what is thus brought before him whatever is valuable or new, how much would he add to our knowledge!

With regard to one, and that the most important branch of study, that namely of the larvæ, a new difficulty presents itself and another solution comes along with it, the difficulty being that of rearing larvæ, and the solution the sending the larvæ to another person. Who that has collected the larvæ of Lepidoptera has not met with, and even looked for as truly as if that were the object of his search, the larvæ of other orders: a leaf is found mined—what by? another and another—till at last a Dipterous larva makes its appearance and is greeted with an exclamation of impatience or disappointment and thrown away; whereas

probably the larva was unknown to science. Now if some one, up to the present state of knowledge in any department, were to be willing to receive insects or larvæ, answer enquiries and return boxes, and would publicly say so, giving at the same time the necessary information as to what he wanted as descriptions of insects and larvæ (for it is not every one who is acquainted with all the "pteras" in the entomologist's vocabulary), I feel convinced that he might, while sitting at home, do more in the cause of science than if he were to spend his whole time in collecting. For myself it was a real pleasure to find some time since a person who understood the Ichneumon, valued what I was able to send him, and could tell me something about them; and I now pin and label many an insect which would otherwise have been ignominiously slaughtered; and I should be glad to send to any Dipterist the larvæ which I constantly meet with while collecting *Micro-Lepidoptera*.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

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RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 2s. 4d. in postage stamps.

*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, July 30th.

Mr. STANTON will proceed on that evening on a collecting expedition up Burnt Ash Lane: he will be at the finger-post where the lane forks at 6.30 p.m. Entomologists from London who may wish to join him there should leave by the 5.30 train for Blackheath, proceed thence to the Tiger's Head, opposite to which runs the rural lane of Burnt Ash. Incipients who are too shy or too afraid of intruding to come to Mountsfield may perhaps pluck up courage enough to meet one in a lane.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Several interesting communications which reached us on Wednesday are held over till next week.*

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BACK NUMBERS OF THE 'INTELLIGENCER.'—The price of No. 1 is now *twopence*: all the other numbers may still be had at one penny each.

H. A. S., FAVERSHAM.—The books you mention can be borrowed from the Library of the Entomological Society by *Members* of that Society.

H. F. G., CHELSEA.—Your whitish green curled up larva off hawthorn, which emits liquid through its body, is not Lepidopterous: it is Hymenopterous, producing a large saw-fly something like a bee, but with knobbed antennæ; its name is *Trichiosoma lucorum*. At this time of year we get six or seven letters a week enquiring the name of this larva. The insects you offer are so universally common that your application for duplicates had better wait till you have something better on hand. Cannot you get some *wainscots* from Hammersmith marshes?

G. G. M., FRANKFORT.—Danke für die *Solutella*.

H. F., ZURICH.—Danke für die *Prunifoliella*.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Trachea piniperda*.—In the locality where we took this insect at the shallows in April, the larvæ are now very abundant: they are most pleasant to rear, feeding "with a will," and very handsome: the food plants will remain fresh for a fortnight if kept cool, thus requiring little attention. I have secured a large quantity, and should they come out well I shall be happy to supply those applicants to whom I could not send in the spring in consequence of my stock becoming exhausted. I can confirm Mr. Gregson's observations as to the irregularity of the appearance of this moth. I have had in my collection ten at the same time, those from half an inch long to the full-fed larvæ, and have them feeding at this time of all sizes.—G. GASCOYNE, Newark; July 15, 1856.

*Trochilium Cynipiforme*.—I have been on the search for this truly beautiful little clear-wing for the last fortnight. On the 13th I saw several of the pupæ-skins projecting from the bark of oaks, between

the magazine and the barracks in Hyde Park, but saw none of the imago. A young man who collects for profit very freely showed me one out of four that he had taken. I went to-day and had the good fortune to capture five males and two females; three or four others were collecting and took four or five each: one young gentleman told me he had taken thirteen on Monday, so that the insect may be considered plentiful this year notwithstanding the avidity with which it has been hunted for years past. No wonder that some insects become rarer, or get exterminated, when ruthless collectors take whole broods of larvæ, pupæ by the gross, and the perfect insect by hundreds! I always read with regret of wholesale captures of insects any way approaching to the rare. One of my *Trochilium Cynipiforme* was on the wing and settled about two feet from the bottom of an oak, and by the movement of the abdomen and running over the bark appeared to be depositing her eggs. I watched her for some time and then captured her, after which I took her to Kensington Gardens and liberated her on an oak tree. To-morrow I shall go to the Park, and if again successful in taking *Cynipiformes* shall liberate most of them in Kensington Gardens, and see if I can extend the breed of this somewhat scarce insect in a new locality. The best time for collecting this insect is from 10 to 12 o'clock in the day.—T. R. OXLEY, Bayswater; July 15, 1856.

*Strange habit of Lasiocampa Trifolii*.—Contrary to your theory this larva *does* burrow: I saw one to-day nearly under the soil, and some time after I looked and it was quite gone. On examining the soil I found several cocoons, some with, others without, a loose cocoon of earth outside the cocoon proper.—S. BINGHAM, Bank, Newnham; July 15, 1856.

They have no certain rule where to make their cocoons; some spin them at

the surface of the earth among roots and moss, others go under the earth from *one to six inches*.—J. J. READING, *Plymouth*; *July 17, 1856*.

*Doings at Deal*.—I have just bred *Deilephila Galii*, No. 2, a fine male. *Lithosia pygmaeola* is just appearing on the sand-hills. Near Dover I have taken *L. quadra* and *Argynnis Aglaia*. *Coremia ligustraria* is now out among alder and ash, and *Xanthosetia inopiana* among the *Inula*.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; *July 15, 1856*.

*Captures near Deal*.—Since my last I have taken the pupa and bred *Plusia orchalcea*. I have also taken *Pionea margaritalis*. *Stigmonota Lephastriana* is just appearing amongst the wild cabbage, on which it feeds.—IBID.

*Three-winged Macaria Notataria*.—During the present month I have taken eight specimens of this species at Wickham: one specimen had, when taken, the left hind wing entirely wanting, though I can just trace a sort of projection where it should have been.—T. WILDMAN; *July 16, 1856*.

*Colias Hyale*.—A very fine specimen of *Colias Hyale* was taken at Lavant, in Sussex, on the 25th of June, after a hard chase, by a friend of mine who has just given it to me. *Polyommatus Argus* is now abundant in this locality.—WM. BUCKLER, *Lumley Cottage, Emsworth, Hants*; *July 15, 1856*.

*Aporia Cratagi in Kent*.—I had the pleasure of seeing this insect on the wing for the first time on the 12th inst., and took ten specimens in good condition.—H. A. SROWELL, *Faversham*; *July 21, 1856*.

*Aporia Cratagi*.—Whilst riding out to-day I caught a very fine specimen of *A. Cratagi* in one of the Minster Lanes. I caught two others about three weeks ago in Herne Park.—R. F. TURNELL, *4, Chatham Place, Ramsgate*; *July 21, 1856*.

*Lepidopterous Larvæ wanted*.—Believing it will be interesting to your readers, I beg to inform you that I have now (and had as early as July 10th) the eggs and a brood, in first, second and fourth moult, of *Cerura vinula*; also the larvæ of *Saturnia Carpini* in their four moults. The full-grown larva of *Cerura vinula*, which I collected on the 10th, on the 11th spun up. I am in hopes it will soon make its appearance in the imago state. This is full six weeks earlier than those I bred last year. They did not chrysalise before September, and the moths came out finely last month. The eggs of *Saturnia Carpini* were laid May 10th, hatched June 5th, and are now progressing most favourably; some that we have collected must have been hatched much earlier, as they are now full-grown. As the larvæ of these two insects differ very considerably in their progressive moults, we have made very careful drawings of the same. I shall feel particularly obliged to any of your correspondents if they will forward me any larvæ they may have to spare, as it can be but after close examination of several specimens that we can safely rely upon our drawings and descriptions. I need not say that I shall be but too happy to pay the expense of postage, as many of your readers are among the working classes; and, as they have the means of collecting larvæ when in search for insects, but perhaps have no convenience or time to attend to them afterwards, it is to this class that I more particularly address myself; and I shall be most happy to assist from my duplicates those parties who will have the kindness to assist me in our labours of making correct drawings of the larvæ of our British Lepidoptera.—C. J. COX, *Fordwich House, Fordwich*; *July 19, 1856*.

*Nepticula Acetosa* (LÉV.)—The larvæ are now to be had in any quantity in the leaves of *Ranex Acetosa* at Howth, near Dublin. Does any one want them?—

EDWIN BIRCHALL, 27, *Eden Quay, Dublin*; July 20, 1856.

*Laverna Conturbatella bred.*—Within the last eight or nine days I have succeeded in breeding seven female specimens of *Laverna Conturbatella* from black larvæ found in the tops of the *Epilobium angustifolium* growing on Box Hill. The larva draws the top leaves of the plant together similar to the larvæ of *Halias Chlorana* on willows. I have also found a number of the leaves of the plant mined by a Lepidopterous larva. Are they the larvæ of a second brood of *Laverna Raschkiella*? — WM. MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End*; July 21, 1856.

*Retinia Sylvestrana.*—Within the last fortnight I have bred a fine series of this rare *Tortrix*, and still hope to breed a few more.—IBID.

*Lepidoptera on the Cheshire Sand-hills.*—I am now breeding *Gelechia temerella* and *Gelechia sororeulella* from sallow leaves collected on the sand-hills here. Those who have not yet found it there should lose no time. It has been out a week. This note is intended for those who live in this district. I shall set as many as I can for distant friends.—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge Lane, Stanley, Lancashire*; July 21, 1856.

*Captures at Shirley.*—I took at Shirley, 15th July, whilst beating for larvæ, a fine specimen of *Hipparchus papilionarius*, also two *Limacodes testudo*. I have twenty larvæ of *Cossus ligniperda*, if any of the readers of the 'Intelligencer' should require them.—WM. HENRY GREGORY, JUN., 24, *Clandon Street, near South Street, Walworth*.

*Lepidoptera at Shrewsbury.*—I have just bred two *Coleophora Alcyonipennella* from the larvæ on thistle, thus verifying Mr. Shield's prediction, which coincided with my own, previously expressed to you, when I took the larvæ. I have also bred *Albitarsella* from *Mentha hirsuta*, as well as from *Glechoma hederacea*. The

elm trees which produced me *Boyerella* have since furnished a *Gelechia*, I suppose *Fugitivella*, in abundance; but many of the specimens are *very much* lighter than usual. I am now taking *Plutella Vittella*, very fine, on the same trees; and if it is wanted I dare say I can find plenty more.—I trust that the 'Intelligencer' will not shut up during the winter, as it is an invaluable circulating medium; and I do not anticipate that the materials will fall short.—GEORGE M. SALT, *Shrewsbury*; July 21, 1856.

*Duplicate Lepidoptera.*—I have some specimens of *Satyrus Hyperanthus* and *Argynnis Selene* which I should have pleasure in sending to any entomologist requiring them; and perhaps some of your readers could oblige me with duplicates of *Nemeobius Lucina*, *Pamphila Comma*, *Pieris Cratagi*, *Polyommatus Ægon*, *Erebia Blandina*. — THOMAS CABELL, *Congreve Street, Birmingham*; July 21, 1856.

*Botys Terrealis (LEP.)*—I have succeeded in breeding several of this insect from larvæ collected, last September, in N. Wales. The larva feeds on *Solidago*. It is slender, pale green, and feeds in a loose web on the under side of the leaves. When full-fed it forms a strong web-like cocoon, in which it remains during winter, changing to pupa in spring, and emerging in the imago state about the middle of June.—G. A. ALMOND, *Birkenhead*; July 19, 1856.

*Lepidoptera at Preston.*—*Polyommatus Ægon* has been taken here for the first time; also *Argiolus*, not before recorded as occurring near here.—J. B. HODGKINSON, *Preston*; July 21, 1856.

*Abraxas Ulmaria.*—Several entomologists have desired to help me with this species. I may remark, for general information, that I got sixty-five pupæ, in fact a handful, all clustered together, as if they were gregarious in changing, beneath one elm tree. I at first thought

they were stored up, being all in a little cavity under the moss.—IBID.

*Pupæ of Lasiocampa Trifolii*.—I have no more left, having sent some to all who applied previous to the 17th: those who have applied since I hope to supply next season.—J. B. RYDER, 15, *Navy Row, Morice Town, Devonport*; *July 21, 1856.*

*Odontia Dentalis* (LEP.).—I regret to say the food-plant *Echium vulgare* has been partly destroyed by submersion, and I fear the pupa of the insect with it, as there is greater scarcity than usual. I shall have pleasure in replying to some of the many applications received.—A. J. WIGGINTON, *Sussex County Hospital, Brighton*; *July 22, 1856.*

[Our correspondent being overrun with applications for *Dentalis* hopes that others will pause before writing; in short he exclaims "Oh don't you!"]

*Our Native Sweets*.—Having lately had little success with "sugaring," I was much interested by the two recommendations in your last number of the flowers of *Glyceria fluitans*, and the secretions of the *Aphides* on the beans. I lost no time in trying both these substitutes for sugar, and am happy to report favourably, the moths swarming both amongst the beans and among the *Glyceria*: from the latter plant I have not been so successful in capturing the *Noctuæ* I have seen, as it grows in such a wet place that I cannot very well get at it.—AN INCIPIENT; *July 23, 1856.*

[We perfectly understand the difficulty of our correspondent, well knowing the sort of places in which the *Glyceria* loves to grow. We presume "an Incipient" has a horror of wetting his feet, or perhaps he is a juvenile and would be scolded if he did so. Our advice would be simply this: that "the Incipient" should don a pair of waterproof boots, and thus equipped he would find no difficulty in reaching the *Glyceria* and boxing the moths as they sit on the flowers.

The *Glyceria*, though partial to wet places, rarely grows where there is any depth of water, however fond it may be of soft mud; but this would prove no impediment if our correspondent were provided with long fishing-boots over his trousers which, by the way, he would find very serviceable when walking through long grass after heavy rain.]

*Our Native Sweets*.—I now know why my sugar, so attractive a short time ago, is now so unattractive to the *Noctuæ*, which I found last night swarming at "the swampy edges of ditches and ponds."—A VECTISIAN; *July 23, 1856.*

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#### MISCELLANEA.

##### THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me (through the 'Intelligencer') what the annual amount of subscription is, and the course I should pursue to be made a member of the Entomological Society. I attended the meeting of the 7th inst., and was very much delighted.

*July 8, 1856.*

FELIX.

Sir,—I am very sorry to see represented in the 'Intelligencer' how easy it is to introduce oneself into the company of entomologists. I presented myself for the third time on Monday last, making sure, after the invitation put forth in the 'Intelligencer,' that I should succeed: but no; I was doomed to disappointment.

The first time that I presented myself I was told that I could not get admission without being introduced, and as I knew no one there I was obliged to go back home.

The second time I went, which was last March, I saw Mr. Foxcroft, whom I knew: I told him that I wished to see the Society's rooms, and he went up-



stairs to see if there was any one there that would introduce me, I being a stranger there. Mr. F. told a person high in the Society that he had a friend who wished to see the rooms: "Oh! have you," says the party; but never said bring him up, which Mr. F. could not do without permission: so I waited at the entrance about an hour without being able to meet any one that I knew to take me up: so I was disappointed again.

Having been out collecting, and having taken one or two insects which I knew were scarce, but did not know the Latin names, and having bred a tiger moth, a phenomenon, I thought I would try again. I proceeded to the second floor as directed, and I heard some one speaking, so I thought I would wait until they were done and then go in: presently out comes a figure, that evidently had no love for insects, to know what I wanted. I told her that I was waiting to go into the room: she asked me if I had a card. I said "no, I had come there through seeing an invitation in the 'Intelligencer.'" She said the meeting was private, and that I could not go in without an order, and that the meeting was almost over: this was at half-past eight o'clock, so that it must be a short meeting to begin at eight and be done at half-past. I think it would be better if you had a person "in livery and brass" to give information when required.

July 8, 1856.

INFELIX.

We cannot help moralising upon the above two very different letters. FELIX, we believe, was as much a stranger as INFELIX; but the *happy* man attended the meeting and enjoyed it. It occurs to us that FELIX must have opened the door and walked in nothing daunted, but that INFELIX stopped outside the door nervously listening, and so was suspected of being there for no good pur-

pose. We can only recommend INFELIX to try again, and if still afraid to come in to send in the following letter:—

Dear Sir,—I am outside the door: could you or some friend of yours introduce me as a visitor to the Meeting.

Yours truly,

A. B.

H. T. Stainton, Esq.

In reply to FELIX's enquiry we beg to state that the annual subscription to the Entomological Society is one guinea. *Members* pay in addition an admission fee of two guineas. *Subscribers* pay no admission fee, but are not eligible to office in the Society. If FELIX aspires to the President's chair at some future day, we recommend him to become a MEMBER.

INFELIX recommends we should have a porter in livery: just at present we do not see exactly who could be selected for that office: the Curator has just assumed the Secretaryship, otherwise we might perhaps have thought of combining the Curator and Porter in one person. But the idea of Mr. Janson in the robe of a Bank beadle . . . . .

SHOULD THE 'INTELLIGENCER' "GO DOWN" FOR THE WINTER?

I have waited anxiously to see what other people thought on the subject before I gave my vote, as our "Yankee" brothers over the water say. I go the whole thing, that no such thing take place. Why! a Sunday breakfast without the 'Intelligencer' to it? pah! ridiculous! cannot think of such a horrible consummation. Perhaps you may ask why it should not become a pupa. There are many reasons:—the first is that it has not yet become known to a tithe of the English collectors, and scarcely a tithe of those who have heard of it have seen it, and very few of those

who have seen it take it; not because they do not appreciate it, but because they did not see it until lately: so they say, "Oh, I will take it next year; but it has gone so far now, and is so near its end, I'll not mind it this year." Second,—as yet few of the "big guns" have sent communications, though I know they take it, and perhaps make fun of us little pistols; but as the little guns generally get into action before the great ones come up, pray continue it, and you will find that the great guns must discharge their knowledge in your columns, or the actions will be won by the infantry whilst the officers are sleeping; after which you may depend upon it the infantry will elect their own officers from the ranks, and the now great guns will be called great in their day. Third,—like other spoiled children we have had it every week, so we want it. Fourth,—having had it regularly we cannot do without it. Fifth,—*we must have it*, to give the big guns a chance to go off, or they will burst with spleen. So now, Mr. Editor, oh! do, there now! that's a good fel—low, say "yes." Ah! that's it. Thanks—many thanks, I am sure from everybody.—C. S. GREGSON.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, July 26, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 18.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## PETTY VANITIES.

MAN is a curious animal ; and nothing is so petty but what he will be pettier still by being vain about it.

Who first discovered a planet, or who first invented the steam-engine we cannot think of much consequence. So that the existence of the planet be made known we cannot see that it is of vast importance who caused it to be known : but if the discoverer plumes himself complacently upon the benefit he has rendered to the human race and engages in controversy with every one whom, in his opinion, is not disposed to accord him the honour his due, can we conceive anything more contemptible? yet is any feeling more general?

We feel we are at variance with nine-tenths of our race. Each perhaps sees and regrets the follies of others, but probably each is disposed himself to act in a similar way.

As discoveries are more frequent in entomology, so amongst entomologists, as might have been expected, such rivalries are of very constant occurrence. "I found the larva first," say A. "No you didn't, for I first found the pupa," replies B. Can anything be conceived more intensely childish?

We have frequently had opportunities of noticing that a species or a larva is simultaneously discovered in several distant and very different localities. Naturally some one first meets with it; but as without communication it is in a few days discovered elsewhere, the first discoverer is not the *cause* of the discovery : the discovery would still have been made had he not existed : for him to claim extraordinary merit for his first falling in with it is absurd.

If people thought less of what they had done and more of what was still left for them to do it would be better for the progress of science, and better for themselves in every respect.

We feel we could speak even more strongly on this subject than we have done, but we hope we have said quite enough to show that we are the very last that should be applied to to "set a matter right" by explaining that though B had first found the pupa, A had found the larva before him.

We have no wish to undervalue the services rendered by any individual ; but those who feel their scientific reputation is filched from them may rest assured that they will gain nothing by setting up an outcry in order to have it restored to them : if they are really good for any thing they can grow a fresh one.

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WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

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Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 2s. in postage stamps.

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*All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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MR. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday next as usual. Trains leave London Bridge for the Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, August 13th.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.*

The subscribers' copies of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the 'Intelligencer,' were posted on the day of publication before noon. The following numbers, *i. e.* 5—16, were posted on the Friday afternoon prior to publication.—EDWARD NEWMAN.

Henry Doubleday's List of British Lepidoptera has been out of print more than a year.—EDWARD NEWMAN.

A YOUTHFUL LOVER OF SCIENCE at Harrow has forgotten to enclose his name and address.

T. C., RIPON.—We know of no such soap. Bruised laurel-leaves we find answer our purpose: but for killing instantly large Sphingids, &c., a saturated solution of oxalic acid is advisable; a pen dipped in it and inserted in the under part of the thorax, between the legs, will be found very efficacious.

CHRYSOPHANUS HIPPOTHOE.—The variety *peculiar* to this country has no continental locality. We fear you have hardly read Mr. Wollaston's book with the attention it deserves.

PSYCHE FUSCA.—Cases received: they are those of *Fumea nitidella*.

J. J. R.—Your large cases are *Fumea nitidella*: the small ones we cannot recognise.

W. B. H., NORWOOD.—The varieties of *Caja* are endless: it occurs almost entirely white, and almost entirely black with all intermediate varieties. Such a variety as yours is, however, not common. Many collect for years without ever meeting a good variety.

T. A. P.—We observe the discretionary silence, not wishing to expose you to the chance of a pelting.

R. H. F.—Thanks for the information.

W. S., ROTHERHAM.—The insect is *Grapholita naevana*; it is very common: we were not aware the larva fed on holly. Name shall be added to the list.

TYRO.—Ca. in the 'Mammal' stands for Cambridge: it was omitted in the list of abbreviations.

ACCRINGTON.—A letter dated from

here is without signature. Who owns it?

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COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Two Bath Whites.*—Hoping the enclosed notice of the capture of two specimens of *Pieris Daplidice* may be of use to some of your readers, I am induced to send it for insertion in your valuable journal. The first was taken by myself while in pursuit of *Pieris Rapæ* in the month of June, 1856, at South Weald, Essex: the second by an intimate acquaintance of mine, a Mr. Harrison, June 22, 1856, in the neighbourhood of Woodford Bridge, Essex. Both being taken in new localities, and I believe the first taken in Essex, it is probable that some of your numerous readers may not find the information unworthy of notice.—W. H. KILLINGBACK, 10, *Oldham Place, Bagnigge Wells Road*; July 23, 1856.

[We suppose these specimens are not females of *Cardamines*.]

*Miana expolita*: *who wants it?*—I was out on the 21st, near Darlington, and took a quantity of *Miana expolita*; and as I shall have duplicates to dispose of for exchange I should like it put in the 'Intelligencer.'—GEORGE MALHAM, *Lear's Yard, Horse Market, near Darlington*; July 22, 1856.

*Argyresthia Glaucinella.*—My attention having been drawn to the habits of this species by Mr. Edleston's note, at p. 109. of the 'Intelligencer,' I have since noticed the insect: but my observations do not quite agree with those of that gentleman. I have taken *Glaucinella* several times lately on an oak at Camberwell, and have always found that when *actually at rest* it retains the usual position of the genus, with the head down.—T. WILDMAN, *Grove Place, Camberwell*; July 22, 1856.

*Captures near Newhaven.*—Within the last month I have taken the following:—

Argynnis Euphrosyne,  
 „ Aglaia,  
 „ Adippe,  
 \*Acronycta aceris,  
 \* „ ligustri,  
 Tryphæna interjecta,  
 Agrotis puta,  
 \* „ pnttris,  
 \*Hadena persicariæ.

Of those marked \* I have a few to spare.—J. J. REEVE, *Newhaven, Sussex*; July 22, 1856.

[We hope Mr. Reeve's next communication will announce that he has "a few to spare" of *Callimorpha Hera*. The pen of a Northern Divine is about to prove that *Hera* must be a British species, as it occurs in the Channel Islands abundantly.]

*Captures of Lepidoptera in the Isle of Wight.*—June 14th I obtained a fine dark *Agrotis saucia*. July 1st *E. Rusula* and *P. Falcula* came to light about 1 A.M.: I had generally supposed them day fliers. July 9th a fine specimen of *Acherontia Atropos* was brought to me. I took three specimens of the perfect insect of *N. Camelina*, and beat the same week the larvæ of various sizes, from three-quarters of an inch to one inch and a quarter.—A VECTISIAN; July 22, 1856.

*Papilio Machaon in Lancashire.*—A specimen of this insect was found in this neighbourhood on the turnpike road, and was brought to me alive and in good preservation this day.—R. J. SHIELDS, *Hornby Parsonage, near Lancaster*; July 24, 1856.

[Perhaps some reader of ours in that vicinity has bred superfluous specimens and let them fly: if so, will he please send us a line?]

*Zeuzera Æsculi in the New Road.*—I think it may be worth while to inform you that an extensive colony of this insect has established itself in Euston

Square. The larvæ chiefly frequent elm and lilae, though I have seen the mark of a few in privet and ash. It is a singular fact that *all* the larvæ favour the New Road side of the Square, which is by far the noisiest and most dusty; while on the terminus side, on which the trees are fine and less dusty, not a larva is to be found: very few of the imago, too, are to be met with on the latter side. The only way I can account for this is, that these insects prefer the bustle of New Road life to the quiet seclusion of the opposite side of the Square. Though there has been a large number of these moths in this locality, still from their large size and conspicuous appearance they become such an easy prey to the gardener and the boys frequenting the Square, that I fear there are not many left.—ROLAND TRIMEN, 71, *Guildford Street, Russell Square*; July 25, 1856.

*An offer of Dipterological aid.*—I think the advice given in your leader of yesterday most admirable. *A general knowledge* of all branches of entomology should be acquired by every student, and upon this he will find that a critical knowledge of some particular family or section will more easily engraft than it will upon an ignorance of the relations that section possesses to the rest of the insect world. If no better man offer, I shall be very happy to receive consignments of Diptera larvæ, and I will do my best to rear them, informing the world, though the medium of the 'Intelligencer,' from time to time of my success in the attempt.—EDWARD BROWN, *Burton-on-Trent*; July 27, 1856.

*Satyrus Hyperanthus.*—Those who want *Satyrus Hyperanthus* can obtain any number by a trip to Weston super-Mare. I am just returned from that place, and saw them flying in incredible numbers in the beautiful woods that adjoin Weston. I took about seven dozen of them, but many of them are wasted. I took also about twenty of *Argyanis Aglais*.

*Bryophila glandifera* is being taken in great numbers on the walls at Bristol; and *Botys hyalinalis* we have again taken in considerable numbers. Is there any one over-stocked with *Polyommatus Artaxerxes*? as I should be very glad of a set.—ARTHUR NAISH, *Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill, Bristol*; July 25, 1856.

*Lepidoptera at Marlow.*—During the last month we have taken one *Heterogenea asellus*, one *Eupithecia succenturiaria*, six *Hypenodes albistrigalis*, one *Pyralis glaucinialis*, and bred one *Cucullia Lychnitis*, and a few *Lophopteryx Cucullina*. Insects appear few and far between this year.—B. SMITH, *Marlow*; July 25, 1856.

*Garden Sweets.*—I observe what you say as to *Glyceria fluitans*, but of all plants, whether native or introduced, none has half the attraction for the Noctua that *Libium mactagon* possesses. There are always swarms of them around its flowers when open, as you may convince yourself now when it is in bloom. I have noticed this for the last thirty-five years.—GEORGE WAILES, *Newcastle-on-Tyne*; July 20, 1856.

*Machaon at Battersea.*—How often it happens that the larvæ of species are taken when the fly is never seen. For instance, in the osier beds, behind Beaufoy's Distillery in Battersea Fields, year after year I have been accustomed to find the larvæ of *P. Machaon*, and always raised the perfect insect from them, yet, though constantly on the watch, I never once there detected it in the winged state. I will just observe how common *Argynnis Lathonia* is on this side the Channel, and I agree with you that it is not so rare as generally supposed if sought for in clover fields in the south of England.—GEORGE AUSTIN, *Caeu*; July 24, 1856.

*A Peep at my Nursery.*—I have this summer paid some attention to the breeding of insects from the egg, in order

to acquaint myself with the larvæ in their different stages, and have had families varying in number from one individual to twenty-two dozen of the following species:—

*Sphinx ligustri*,  
*Smerinthus ocellatus*,  
*Gnophria rubricollis*,  
*Setina irrorella*,  
*Arctia villica*,  
*Psilura monacha*,  
*Demas Coryli*,  
*Trichiura Cratægi*,  
*Pœcilocampa Populi*,  
*Lasiocampa Trifolii*,

*Endromis versicolora*. I have watched this splendid larva in all its stages with great interest and admiration: the eggs were sent me from Scotland by Mr. Foxcroft.

*Cossus ligniperda*,  
*Platypteryx lacertula*,  
*Cerura bifida*,  
 „ *vinula*,

*Petasia nubeculosa* (also sent me by Mr. F.) I have reared a fine brood of larvæ, which have gone down satisfactorily. I am sorry to say, however, that three of the half-grown larvæ were devoured by their relations before I discovered their cannibal propensities, after which I kept them separate.

*Lophopteryx camelina*,  
 „ *carmelita*. I am indebted to Mr. S. Stevens for eggs of this species; only one hatched, which has gone down.

*Leiocampa Dictæa*,  
 „ *dictæoides*,  
*Notodonta dromedarius*,  
 „ *ziczac*,  
*Peridea trepida*,  
*Clostera reclusa*,  
*Acronycta Myricæ* (from Scotland). They will eat dock and birch, but prefer *Euphorbia cyparissias*.

*Ceropacha flavicornis*,  
*Tryphæna fimbria*,  
*Noctua Dahlii*,

*Noctua brunnea*,  
 „ *triangulum*,

*Agrotis Ashworthii*. Mr. F. has sent me eggs of this from Wales: they don't look as if they meant to hatch, but I should be glad if any one could inform me what to feed the larvæ with, should they make their appearance.

*Tœniocampa miniosa*,  
*Aplecta tineta*,  
*Euplexia lucipara*,  
*Xylia rhizolitha*,  
*Cucullia Verbasei*,

„ *Lychnitis*. Last year's larvæ have not yet emerged from the pupæ, and I suppose will not till next year: I find this species generally remains two years in pupa.

*Geometra papilionaria*,  
*Odontopera bidentaria*,  
*Himera pennaria*,  
*Angerona prunaria*, and many other commoner species.

Last year Mr. S. Stevens paid me a visit of a few days, early in September, and while hunting for larvæ of *Cucullia Asteris*, of which we obtained a few, he found one larva, which he took with him to London, and it was pronounced by *savans* to be "*C. Gnaphalii*, or something better." I subsequently found two more of the same kind, which turned to chrysalides all right, but I fear they have produced two very queer-looking ichneumonons, with short wings and inordinately long bodies. I have mentioned the above circumstance, in order to add that I have just returned from a hard hunt, and have brought in an *Asteris* larva or two, and also what I shall be very glad to rear *Gnaphalii* from. A female *Zeuzera Æsculi* was brought in to-day, which has laid a quantity of eggs. Can any one tell me how to rear them?—WILLIAM HENRY HAWKER, *Horndean, Hants*; July 26, 1856.

[We never knew a female *Æsculi* that didn't lay a quantity of eggs, but we never knew any larvæ come from them.

Some of our readers may have fared better with their eggs.]

*Trochilium Chrysidiforme*.—I captured a nice specimen of this fine sphinx near Folkestone, hovering over an Echium plant, about noon, on the 18th inst. I swept the cliffs and slopes for nearly a week, working eight hours daily without obtaining another.—JOHN HUNTER, 24, Bloomsbury Street; July 29, 1856.

*Spilodes palcalis* (LEP.).—On the same slope where *Chrysidiforme* gladdened my eyes, I took a specimen of this scarce moth on the 26th inst.: this is, I am told, the fourth British specimen.—IBID.

*Cucullia Chamonilla*.—The appearance of this species is very uncertain. Last week myself and friend captured some specimens at dusk: they fly from flower to flower, and conduct themselves à la stellatarum! Their proper time for appearing is warm weather, in April and May, but they have come forth from the pupæ so early as January, and now taken on the 28th of July, which is a very long time for the period of a flight, particularly as this species is rather a scarce one. I do not think this insect is double-brooded, because all the specimens which I have reared came forth in the last half of April and the first half of May, and because we never find a second brood of larvæ. I consider these to be captured out of their time,—exceptional ones, and that this insect is susceptible, perhaps, to atmospheric changes.—J. J. READING, Plymouth; July 29, 1856.

*Ennomos illustraria*.—I am now breeding the second brood of *Ennomos illustraria*, and have larvæ of the same brood, produced from the same female, only half-grown: the larvæ have all had the same treatment.—IBID.

*Cossonus Tardii*.—I succeeded in taking upwards of a dozen of this insect yesterday.—IBID.

*Bred*.—Within the last fortnight I have bred four female specimens of *Laverua conturbatella* from black larvæ I

took spun up in the tops of the *Epilobium augustifolium* growing on Box Hill. The larva spins up in the top of the plant, similar to many of the Tortrix larvæ. I have also taken a number of Lepidopterous larvæ mining in the leaves of the plant named. Are they likely to produce a second brood of *Laverua Ruschkiella*? as I took a beautifully fine specimen at the same time. Or are they likely to turn out another new species? The larvæ were full-fed when I took them, and they have since made a whitish case outside the leaf, and are now, I suppose, in pupa.—F. O. STANDISH, 2, Alfred Cottages, Warner Road, Camberwell, July 28, 1856.

*A Rarity*.—I took a magnificent specimen of *Coleophora conspicuella* in Headley Lane, on the 20th inst.—IBID.

*Retinia Sylvestrana*.—I have bred a fine series of this much-wanted insect, from larvæ I took feeding in the young shoots of the stone pine (*Pinus pinea*).—IBID.

*Cabera rotundaria*.—I have bred a good series of this insect, which is undoubtedly a species; although a smaller insect than *C. pusaria*, the wings are rounder and fuller, and the two lines near the base of the wing are much closer together than in *C. pusaria*. I have a specimen or two that vary in the lines, but still they are readily distinguished from the common White-wave.—IBID.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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#### IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF TINEÆ.

On the 22nd inst. this house met; *Tapetzella* on the wool-sack.

*Granelle* wished to call the attention of their mothships' house to a report which had reached him through the ordinary channels of communication, that



*Signor Merdella* was about to cook up a claim to a seat amongst them; he, as one of the oldest members of the house—for did not the ancient Britons eat Cereals? and had not his ancestors assisted to diminish their supplies?—he, must protest against this proceeding, and he called upon the house to join in the protest.

*Pallescentella* hoped the house would listen to him for a few moments; he would not detain them long; but he must say that if *Merdella* was excluded what was the *Signor* to do; he was domiciled here and determined to remain, and no vote of their house could prevent his eventually becoming a British *Tinea*. (Hear, hear.)

*Fuscipunctella* who spoke from the wool-sack with sundry contortions of the palpi, begged the house not to be misled by the assertions of the noble moth who had preceded him; he believed if every one had his due the recent speaker would not himself have had a seat amongst them. He concluded with proposing that “a committee be appointed to investigate the claims of *Merdella*.”

*Cloacella* said he had no wish to be harsh, but he must say that it would be much better if *Merdella* would return to the bare moor or barren park where he came from “to the place where the wool used to grow.” (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

*Ochraccella*, who spoke with a strong northern accent, rose to second the motion of *Cloacella* for a select committee. (A voice, “Do your ants know your out?”) His antennæ were above replying to any such enquiry; he trusted that the house would protect him from any such insulting observations: “A moth’s a moth for a’ that.”

*Pellionella* said that it appeared to him no case had been made out for this committee, and he for one must protest against it. It was impossible for them to admit to the rights and privileges of

their house all stray *Tineæ* that might come to reside in the country, and he moved that the claim of *Merdella* be disallowed. (Hear, hear.)

*Cochylidella*, of Sanderstead, was of opinion that all first appearances of *Tineæ* at our great commercial ports should be looked on with extreme suspicion, and he regretted that a committee had not been appointed at the time to investigate the claims of *Pallescentella*. (Oh! oh!)

*Simpllicella* was for excluding not only those *Tineæ* which appeared at our sea-port towns but also all those which rested only on single specimens. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

*Cochylidella*, of Sanderstead, rose to explain, but was greeted with loud cries of “spoke, spoke.”

*Misella* had no doubt that the right of *Merdella* was fully established, but on that very account he would not shrink from any enquiry, and was quite ready to vote for the committee.

*Parasitella* said it was nonsense discussing the matter, and the sooner *Merdella* was sent about his business the better.

*Corticella* would certainly vote for the committee, because he thought the committee would enable *Merdella* to establish his claims.

The house then divided, when there appeared for the

Committee . . . . 14

Against it . . . . 12

Majority . . . . — 2

(This announcement was received with loud cheers.)

The house then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY EVENING’S RAMBLE UP BURNT-ASH LANE.—On this occasion we met two incipients, the knowing ones being represented by a secretary and ex-secretary of the Entomological Society. We believe the incipients had better sport than their seniors, and went home

with their boxes better filled than usual. One omitted to bring his net, whereby he lost the opportunity of catching many *Noctuæ* and *Geometræ*: another time he will be wiser. The ramble will be repeated on Wednesday, the 13th inst.

VISIT OF HERR DOHRN TO ENGLAND. — Our esteemed correspondent writes to us from Geneva that his plans are now altered, and he is about to proceed homewards from thence: he will not visit England this season.

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ERRATA.

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Page 131, first column, line 10 from bottom, for "collection ten" read "collecting tin."

Page 136, first column, line 14 from bottom, for "numerous" read "occasional."

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, August 2, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 19.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

THERE are many of these societies scattered about the country, and many of fancy are now in progress of formation. Under these circumstances we propose to turn our attention to the best mode of their construction and action, so as to render them at the same time both useful and agreeable.

What in the first place is the proposed object of a Natural History Society?

We presume it is that persons residing in a district with similar tastes may meet and communicate their ideas to each other, and that those in whom such tastes are only latent may have them developed by the genial fostering of kindred spirits.

Then how, in the second place, does the embryo Society propose to effect these objects?

This may be done in several distinct modes: in the first place the Society may hold periodical meetings (monthly or otherwise), and at those meetings communications from the learned members may be read for the benefit of those who are not so far advanced: in the second place the Society may proceed to form a collection or museum, a step in which, however, they should proceed with great caution, as if the collection be a good one it must entail great ex-

pense, whereas if it be a bad one it may be of little or no use. Many of the members of the Society probably have collections of their own of different branches of Natural History, and by some little arrangement it may be so contrived that their private collections shall be accessible at stated times, so that those who wish to see them or refer to them can do so without feeling that they encroach on the privacy of the proprietor. And mind you, as a rule, a private collection will be in better order, in better preservation, and more instructive than any public collection, which it is, perhaps, nobody's business to keep in order, and for which, perhaps, nobody can be blamed if it is not in order.

In the third place we should strongly recommend that the Society during the summer months should have a limited number of field-days, days when a number of the members meet and ramble over hill and dale, through forest and fen. Such excursions are especially attractive to the young; and though you must not expect an Edward Forbes in every small provincial Natural History Society, these trips through Nature's recesses may frequently prove vastly instructive. We purposely recommend only a *limited* number of these excursions, for the fewer they are the better chance they have of being well attended,

and not like the meetings of an unfortunate society to which we belong, and of which three is an unusually large number to meet on any excursion.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 1s. 10d. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London*, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, the 13th inst.

Mr. STANTON will proceed on that evening on a collecting expedition up Burnt-Ash Lane: he will be at the finger-post where the lane forks at 6.30 p. m. Entomologists from London who may wish to join him there should leave by the 5.30 train for Blackheath, proceed thence to the Tiger's Head, opposite to which runs the rural lane of Burnt-Ash. Incipients who are too shy or too afraid of intruding to come to Mountsfield may perhaps pluck up courage

enough to meet one in a lane. Incipients are requested not to come unprovided with nets.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.*

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S. B.—*Paphia*; the males come out as a rule *first*: later in the season you would take a larger proportion of females.

PICARIA. — Specimens will much oblige: also *Anniularia*.

COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF TINEÆ in an early number.

G. G's. pocket-pistol shall appear.

LABELLING LISTS. — See list of Butterflies, stitched up with 'Mannual,' No. 2, and list of Sphingæ and Bombycæ in 'Mannual,' No. 7, (the September number). When your collection is arranged as far as *Testudo* the list of Noctuæ will probably be ready.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Anchomenes livens* (COL.). — About three weeks ago I took at sugar three fine specimens of this insect, and other *Coleoptera* near Brighton.—JOHN HEMMINGS, *Brighton*; August 1, 1856.

*Gelechia terrella* (LEP.).—I have bred *G. terrella*, and should really feel obliged if some one would tell me what it came out of. The bunch of rushes which I had brought in for the benefit of the

supposed *Thrasionella* furnished it, and I presume the larva lived in the moss around the roots.—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees; July 31, 1856.*

*Captures in Headley Lane.*—On the 28th inst. I met with the following:—

*Coleophora conspicuella*,  
 „ *Lixella*,  
 „ *albitarsella*, several  
*Butalis fuscoænea*, and  
*Catoptria cæcimaculana*.

On Box Hill I found

*Eriopsela fractifasciana*, fine, and  
*Pempelia carnella*, wasted.

—W. MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End; July 31, 1856.*

*Captures near Witney.*—I this day caught a pair of *Polyommatus Corydon* in the forest of Wychwood, the only locality in which I have found this species during ten years ramble in this part of Oxfordshire. On the 8th of June I captured *Melanippe Hastata*; and on the 30th I found a single specimen of *Sphecia apiformis*, and one of *Dianthæcia conspersa*; also *Melitæa Cinxia* and *Ab-raxas Ulmata*. On the 17th July I took a beautiful specimen of *Leiocampa Dictæa* just emerged from the pupa.—T. F., *Witney; July 25, 1856.*

*Duplicate Coleoptera.*—I have collected, expressly for general distribution to Coleopterists, sufficient numbers of the following species to supply, I hope, all who may desire specimens. The specimens are in a relaxed state in laurel, and I propose to distribute them so, in order that each person may set them according to his own fancy. I only request that every one will send stamps for the postage, and I shall have much pleasure in supplying the insects. All letters to be addressed to me at No. 19, Upper Islington Terrace, Barnsbury Park, London.

*Aphodius sus*,  
 „ *nitidula*,  
*Ceutorhynchus Eclii*,

*Hypera fasciculosa*,  
*Limobius mixtus*.

I have other local species in some abundance, but I must reserve them for another occasion.—FREDERICK SMITH; *August 2, 1856.*

*The Slaughter of the Innocents.*—A veteran entomologist, whose wanderings and ponderings have amused and instructed a generation of collectors, honoured me with a visit yesterday evening, and we agreed to turn his revered presence to practical account. To this end we, that is seven persons, accompanied him into Farm Lane. Presently we came to the channel of the stream, now nearly dry, all the water being collected into one little pool about four feet in diameter. Then we saw his quiet, roguish eyes, glisten at the thought of the water-beetles therein: his water-net was made ready, and in another moment he had bounded to the water's edge, and we stood high up on the bank,

“With bated breath and whispered humbleness,”

watching the evolutions of a master. And beautiful was it to see how he manœuvred, first dipping downward, then rapidly moving his net upward, then skimming the surface, or moving obliquely to catch a straggler. Will he forget the shout that hailed his first haul to land! Various species of *Colymbetes*, &c., were bottled by dozens, and the net again transferred to the water: this process was repeated for half an hour, and the supply was not exhausted:

“The cry was still they come.”

But the bottle was full, and the slaughter of the innocents ceased. The quantity of beetles in this hole was enormous, and showed clearly enough how much easier it is to obtain water-beetles in dry weather than when there is plenty of water out.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee; July 30, 1856.*

[The “veteran” to whom our corres-

pondent alludes has furnished the following statistics of the "Innocents slaughtered:"—

<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i> . . .	1
<i>Colymbetes fuscus</i> . . .	8
<i>Ilybius ater</i> . . . . .	6
„ <i>uliginosus</i> . . . . .	18
<i>Agabus guttatus</i> . . . . .	8
„ <i>paludosus</i> . . . . .	17
„ <i>vitreus</i> . . . . .	53
„ <i>bipustulatus</i> . . . . .	47
<i>Hydroporus elegans</i> . . .	24

*Helophorus*, *Hydrochus*, *Hydræna*, *Berosus*, *Hydrobius*, &c., more than 200. Grand total 400 more or less.]

*An Eater of the Broom-seed.*—About this season, for several previous years, I have observed empty pupa-cases projecting from the seed-pod of the broom. I should be glad to learn what species of moth it is that is reared within such narrow limits as these pods afford. I take it to be one of the seed-eating Tortrices, such as *Dierorampha*.—IBID.

*Captures near Sheffield.*—I and Mr. John Jessop paid a visit to Maltby Wood and Common, July 27th, and captured one *Thecla W-album*, sixty *Arge Galathea*, and eight *Ophiusa pastinum*, besides several commoner species in abundance.—W. LAYCOCK, 154, Bath Street, Sheffield; August 4, 1856.

*Duplicate Lepidoptera.*—I shall be happy to supply any entomologist, who may think them worth applying for, with *Arge Galathea*, *Abraxas Ulmaria* and *Aplecta herbida*, and I should feel exceedingly obliged to any of your readers who could help me with the Clear-wings.—F. MEYER, 17, Sand Street, Birmingham; August 4, 1856.

*Captures at Cirencester.*—I have been over here from Newnham for the last four days, and have taken

<i>Arge Galathea</i> ,
<i>Argynnis Paphia</i> ,
<i>Steropes Panisens</i> ,
<i>Pamphila lineæ</i> , and
<i>Polyommatus Corydon</i> ,

all in Earl Bathurst's park. I only found the head quarters of *Galathea* to-day. I saw two or three stray ones on Saturday; but to-day by the 'Round house' they were swarming: I captured a dozen in a few minutes, and ten *P. Linea* at the same place. *Paphia* was plentiful in the "rides." I give the localities, as no doubt you have readers in this neighbourhood. I cannot understand how *P. Corydon* came here: there is no chalk in the county, and I have always understood they were only found in chalky districts. I took the only two I saw, and shall explore the country round in the hope of finding their metropolis before next Saturday, when I leave here. *Galathea* I have captured as freely as I can so as to supply those who want it. I have a lot of eggs, if of use to any one.—S. BINGHAM, Cirencester; August 4, 1856.

[This is a new locality for the local *Panisens*, and we should be glad of a few Cirencester specimens if our correspondent has them to spare.]

*Monk's Wood.*—It may save some collectors a fruitless journey to know that they will be refused admission to Monk's Wood to collect. It is to us no small loss to be refused admission, as it is the only wood good for much in this part of England. This, in addition to the ruthless destruction of our fens, will be a great misfortune to our cabinets. I went down to the vicinity of Monk's Wood last week, and on being refused by the keepers, I wrote to the proprietor, Mr. Simpson, Burlington Gardens, and the reply was as courteous as the refusal was decided, on account of the game not being disturbed. Although I do not agree with him that walking through the rides would disturb the game after the second week in July, the proprietor considers so, and therefore we have to go without the Purple Emperor and other rarities with which that wood used to supply our cabinets. My sugaring for two or three

nights near another smaller wood produced a few things. *Aeronycta strigosa* was taken also by another collector. My captures included *X. sublustris*, *C. cytherea*, *Spalotis ravidia* (in plenty), *Cosmia pyralina*, *Thyatira batis* and *derasa*, also ten of the beautiful *Hylophila Quereana*. I have also some few specimens of *Lælia eanosa* just coming out, and also some of *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*, of this year's rearing, and plenty of *Papilio Maehaon*, if any of your correspondents want specimens; but I hope I may be better treated now than I was by one collector (I spare his name), who asked for a lot of things in the 'Intelligencer,' and also offered others. I sent a box of pupæ, and offered him others if he wished, but he neither acknowledged or thanked me in any way. Can any Dorsetshire collector send me *Pamphila Aetæon*?—ALFRED F. SEALEY, 70, Trumpington Street, Cambridge; August 2, 1856.

*Lost, an Entomologist; J. Cowmeadow, Esq., Jun.*—A box of insects was forwarded by me to the above-named gentleman six or seven weeks ago. Having received no acknowledgment of its arrival, I fear it must have miscarried. Should this meet his eye, he will perhaps communicate with me, and give me his address. It would be very desirable if correspondents always added the county in which their residence is situated. I avail myself of this opportunity to give in my name to the list of those who hope to see the 'Intelligencer' continued throughout the winter; I sincerely trust it may, since I for one should miss it very much.—J. GREENE, Playford, Ipswich, Suffolk; August 2, 1856.

*Parchment Labels for Posting Boxes.*—I have had many letters enquiring how I manage my boxes, as "we cannot make out how to attach the parchment." Now, to save trouble, will you insert the following description of it:—Glue or fasten securely to the inside of the cover of the box a piece of parchment (sufficiently large to

stick on the address, and postage stamp), which must project from the end of the box: on the top and bottom of the box, write in large letters, 'Please stamp on the parchment.' And be sure to stick the pins well into the cork, and all specimens with large bodies should have pins put across the abdomen, for one loose body will destroy a box of insects. I have written to Rowland Hill, asking him to issue orders to all clerks that they must stamp only on the labels of such boxes: he says "he will give it early attention." If so, then we are safe in sending by post by this plan, for I have had many, and only two have had the contents injured, these bore the post-marks Birmingham and Glasgow.—E. S. NORCOMBE, Heavitree, Exeter; August 4, 1856.

*Captures near Exeter.*—I have taken *Geometra papilionaria*, *Angerona prunaria*, *Eurymene dolobraria*, *Muecaria alternaria*, *Emmelesia albularia* and *Eupithecia succenturiana*. I have duplicates of *Melanthia amnieularia*.—IBID.

*New Contrivance for rearing Larvæ.*—Having found it very difficult to feed small larvæ, I have now adopted the following plan, which is very successful, as the food-plant does not require to be changed oftener than once a week, and with some food not even then:—Take a large flat dish, into which place a small saucer; fill both dish and saucer with water up to the rim of the saucer; on the saucer place a piece of thin board or cork having a number of small holes, through which you can place the stems of the food-plant into the water below. Let there be not less than half-an-inch between the sides of the board and the dish, which will prevent the larvæ escaping. On the board place a pill-box with loose earth for the caterpillars to change in. When you find any have disappeared from the food, remove the box and substitute another.—IBID.

*Tinea Merdella.*—I have examined my friend N. Cooke's *Tinea Merdella* and

find it is *Tinea pallescentella*, Stainton's Catalogue. I leave it for you to tell us which is the oldest name.—C. S. GREGSON, *Edge Lane, Stanley, Lancashire*; July 22, 1856.

*Caution to Incipients.*—Would you give a hint to tyros, like myself, not to set out home-bred Lepidoptera too soon after their emerging from the pupa. I have had two or three good specimens spoiled for want of such a caution; their wings not being thoroughly dry have crumpled up under the braces after a day or two.—A NOVICE; July 21, 1856.

*Use of the 'Intelligencer.'*—My offer of *Anthrocera Minos*, in the number of the 12th July, brought me above 100 applications; and I have had the pleasure of sending the insect to the greater number. I consider we are all greatly indebted to you for this weekly medium of communication. *Esto perpetua.*—E. BIRCHALL, 27, *Eden Quay, Dublin*; July 20, 1856.

*Hints to Young Collectors.*—As well as teaching the young collector how to obtain insects, it may not be out of place to make reference to some of the usages of old collectors, which, if observed, will prove of benefit and comfort both to himself and others. If a collector goes to a tree to look for insects, it is usual to consider that tree his till he has left it; it not being deemed handsome conduct to go and pick insects off a tree that another is examining. When a tree or trees have been sugared, no one with a proper sense of justice would think of going to POACH on such tree or trees for insects, general usage conceding the right of all trees sugared to him who has taken the trouble of sugaring. If an insect is started, or first seen, by an entomologist, and he has to give chase, he does not expect others to join in the pursuit; but, if this happens, he never dreams of the pill-boxing of the capture by some other person with quicker legs than sense of right and wrong. That these things may happen thoughtlessly, or for want of knowing

better, there is no doubt, and for this reason we deem it worth while to dedicate to the subject these few lines of advice. For we are convinced that few among the many young gentlemen who have latterly taken up the net would wish to lay themselves open to the suspicion of being unjust or greedy, or of being possessed of so little delicacy of feeling as to prefer keeping an insect to retaining the good opinion of a brother collector. There are very few experienced entomologists who will not impart their knowledge with the greatest pleasure to the tyro in a science which has afforded so much pleasure and happiness to themselves; but rudeness or selfishness speedily alienates this warm feeling of sympathy, and when too late the young amateur finds he has lost both friendship and knowledge. In our time we have given away hundreds of insects, and hope to do the same again, but never one to a greedy collector.—TWO OLD HANDS; July 26, 1856.

*Abraaxas Ulmata* has this year appeared in great profusion all round this neighbourhood. In previous years it was only to be met with in one or two localities. It first began to appear at the end of May, and to-day (July 17) I saw it in greater profusion than ever.—W. P. JUNR., *Durham*.

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Durham.*—During the last five weeks we have taken in this locality

*Polyommatus Salmaeis*, not plentiful this year,  
*Melitæa artemis*,  
*Thanaos tages*,  
*Sesia Bombylififormis*,  
*Smerinthus populi*, abundant,  
*Anthrocera filipendulæ*,  
*Procris staticeæ*,  
*Euchelia Jacobææ*,  
*Euthemonia Plantaginis*,  
*Hepialus sylvinus*,  
*Lasiocampa Trifolii*, larva also abundant,



*Pygæra bucephala*, very abundant  
*Notodonta Dictæa*, six fine specimens,

*Notodonta camelina*,  
*Cerura furcula*,  
*P. lubricipeda*, very common,  
*Aplecta nebulosa*, common,  
*Thyatira derasa*, at sugar,  
*Euclidia* Mi,  
*Fidonia piniaria*,  
*Ennomos lunaria*,  
*Emmelesia rivularia*,  
*Halias prasinana*, common.

Also the larva of *Euplexia lucipara* and *Scopelosoma satellitia*.—JOHN WOOD & W. P., JUNR., *Durham*; July 17, 1856.

*Captures near Rotherham*.—I have lately taken here in abundance *Sphecia bembeciformis* on sallows. Also a few fine specimens of *Plusia inscripta* in company with *Iota* and *Chrysitis*.—W. THOMAS, *Park Gate, Rotherham*; July 21, 1856.

*Polyommatus Corydon*.—I have just taken a number of this insect, and have some to spare. We must "wait a little longer" for *Hera*, "the good time" is not come yet. — J. J. REEVE, *Newhaven, Sussex*; August 5, 1856.

On Saturday I might have taken hundreds of *Corydon*: I filled my box and cried enough! The greater number were males. I could have taken at least fifty males in an hour, but I only took about twenty females in three hours. If you know any one wanting this insect, *Hipparchia Semelc*, or *Nemeophila Plantaginis*, I shall be happy to supply them. — E. WAGSTAFF, *Chippenham, Newmarket*; August 5, 1856.

*Doings at Deal*.—I have bred *Deilephila Galii*, No. 3: it is a male. I have taken, near Dover, some fine *Plusia Orichalcea*, also *Spalotes catalaueca*; and have bred *Odontia dentalis*. *Aspilates gilvaria* is common on the hill-tops.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; August 6, 1856.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Monday, August 4, 1856. J. O. WESTWOOD, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.

NEW OR RARE LEPIDOPTERA.—This meeting was unusually interesting, owing to the number of species of rare Lepidoptera that were exhibited: thus, Mr. Bolt, of Bristol (who was introduced by Mr. Douglas), exhibited his specimen of *Drepana sicula* (the second British specimen known); a third has since been taken by Mr. Vaughan.

Mr. Hunter exhibited a *Spilodes palealis* and a *Trochilium chrysidiforme*, taken near Folkstone, and a new Noctua, *Eriopus Latreillei*, which he had bred from an unobserved larva.

Mr. S. Stevens exhibited two *Deilephila Galii* bred from larvæ found on the Deal sand-hills by Mr. Smith the previous autumn, and several of an apparently new *Lozotania* from Folkstone; also four *Trochilium chrysidiforme*, and a new Knot-horn, *Nyetegretes Achatinella*, from the same locality.

Mr. Tompkins also exhibited a specimen of this last-named insect.

Mr. Bond exhibited six fine specimens of *Noctua Ditrapezium*.

THREE-WINGED LEPIDOPTERA.—Mr. Weir exhibited a series of three-winged *Macaria notataria*, one of the hind wings being abortive, and in one instance both hind wings were wanting, and he remarked that three-winged specimens of this insect had also been taken by Mr. Stevens, Mr. Wildman, and Mr. Tompkins.

Mr. Stevens exhibited a three-winged *Harpalyce Galiata*, and one with only two wings. Mr. Bond said on several occasions he had taken some of the commoner species with one or both hind wings deficient. Mr. Smith stated that

in a wasp's nest there would frequently be as many as six females, perfectly developed in other respects, but wingless.

**RARE COLEOPTERA.**—Mr. Waterhouse exhibited five specimens of *Myrmidonea*, viz., *eognata* (which had been previously found by Mr. Janson), *humeralis*, *funesta*, *lugens*, and *laticollis*, all from nests of black ants; also specimens of *Oxygoda vittata*.

A paper by Mr. Newman "On Killing Insects by Laurel" was then read, and several members gave instances of the difficulty with which some species were acted upon by poisons that proved speedily fatal to others; Mr. Douglas mentioning that among a lot of beetles he had placed in laurel, a *Neerobia ruficollis* continued to walk about friskily among its asphyxiated companions for hours, apparently quite unaffected.

P.S.—The Rev. Joseph Greene had sent for exhibition a curious variety of *Abraxas Grossulariata*, and one of *Cleora lichenaria*, the wings of the latter being unusually tinted with orange, which Mr. Greene surmised might have been caused by the larva having fed on orange-coloured lichens. These specimens were not exhibited, because Mr. Stainton found them on his mantel-piece when he reached home at 11 P. M.; by no means a solitary instance of correspondents sending things for exhibition a day after the fair.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 20.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## FOREIGN INSECTS.

THE entomologists of this country, as a rule, collect none but *British* insects: we are not expressing our opinion on the wisdom of that rule, we are simply stating the fact that it is so.

Some British insects are rare. The desire to obtain these rare insects is a strong desire among all collectors. To gratify this desire it is the custom to purchase these rarities in the insect markets abroad, import them into this country, and sell them to the unwary as British; and probably there is not one cabinet in twenty that does not unwittingly contain these supposed-to-be British specimens.

As a proof of the actual demand that exists for these rare British species in the continental markets, we may mention that on looking through a collection at Paris, such species as *Carmelita*, *Nubeculosa*, &c., were wanting, and on enquiring the reason, the reply was that the collector had parted with his specimens of these species to an insect dealer who had an extensive order for them from England. *Lathonia* is sent over here from Paris by the hundred; and we have no doubt that the price of *Eriopus Latreillei* will be raised in the markets abroad by the fact of Mr. Hunter's specimen rendering it a British species. There would be some sense in this proceeding if these insects were bought and

sold as what they are — foreign specimens; but no: they are regularly prepared for the English market, and soon they will be set, while fresh, in the English fashion, in order to pass more readily for English specimens: some imagine that you can always ascertain whether an insect is foreign by relaxing it, and noticing whether the wings attain the horizontal position due to the continental setting. This may be the case now, but it will not long be so. The evil then is a growing one and a serious one; but may it not be productive of good, when we find that, whether we wish it or not, our collections insensibly get tenanted by French and German specimens, shall we not get our ideas by degrees enlarged, and begin to collect European insects in general?

A French *Daphidice*, bought as a French specimen, would not cost more than six *pence*; but if it has to be set in a particular way, in order that it may pass for a British specimen, we must not be surprised if we are asked six *shillings* for it.

*Artaxerxes* is exported to the Continent; but it is not attempted to pass the Scotch specimens off as real Swiss captures: on the Continent they take the thing for what it is worth, and don't try to give it a fictitious value by passing it off for what it is not. "They manage these things better in France."

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London*, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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MR. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday next as usual. Trains leave London Bridge for the Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.13, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

In another part of our columns will be found instructions whereby strangers can find their way to Mountsfield without a guide.

MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, August 27th.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.*

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J. B.—Thanks for the alder-leaves: they contain *Elongella*.

J. N. W.—No doubt the Tortrix *Carpocapsa Pomonella*: see 'World of Insects,' pp. 58—61.

H. WOLFF.—*Cerura Vinula*; the PUSS Moth.

W. R. H.—Keep your Death's Head larva in a cage out of doors in a shady place: let him have five or six inches depth of earth at least, and see that it does not get too dry.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Pamphila Actæou*.—On Wednesday, the 6th inst., we made an excursion to the "Burning Cliff," the peculiar haunt of this species. Before our arrival at the "hunting ground" we had already taken *Paphia*, *Rhamni*, *Io*, and *Ægon*; but the greatest success was reserved for the object of the excursion; and the capture of about eighty Skippers fully rewarded us for an hour's exertion under a true August sun, and a reasonable quantity of concussions with "Mother Earth." The only other insect which appeared in any remarkable plenty was *Argo Galathea*: we took about fifty stragglers, and saw a compact cloud of forty or fifty more. The *Actæon* I have already dispersed among different friends. Should I take them again in any number I shall be happy to supply all who are in want of them.—A. PRETOR, *Wyke House, Weymouth*; August 7, 1856.

*Captures at Brighton*.—I took last evening a very beautiful specimen of *Synia musculosa*.—A. J. WIGGINTON, *Sussex County Hospital, Brighton*; August 8, 1856.

*Doings at Chichester*.—On the 2nd of

August (while bent on a fruitless search after *Grapta C-Album* in one of its former haunts) I encountered a specimen of *Limenitis Sibilla* in apparently fine condition. On the same day I captured a female of *Apatura Iris* sitting on a low tree in a little narrow strip of copse by the road side. While resting at the Inn I put a freshly-hatched female Egger in the window, which drew the males with great success, and curiously enough they came to both sides of the building; and even when I drove off home fresh ones continued to come after the cart, two or three at a time, till I and my companion were fairly tired of stopping to bag them, and left off, having taken upwards of thirty, and leaving some still on the road.—W. H. DRAPER, *Chichester*; August 5, 1856.

*Chrysoelista Schrankella* (LEP.) double-brooded.—I suspected, last season, that there must be a second brood of *Schrankella*: to-day I have bred a number of them; the second brood is far more numerous than the first.—T. WILKINSON, *Scarbro'*; August 5, 1856.

*Laverna Raschkiella* double-brooded.—Mr. Machin, Mr. F. O. Standish, and I, have all bred this species from larvæ making flat mines, last month, in the leaves of *Epilobium angustifolium* on Box Hill.—H. T. STAINTON; August 13, 1856.

Summer brood of *Nepticula Septembrella* (LEP.).—I bred on the 3rd inst. several specimens of this species from the leaves of *Hypericum* collected in July, and have since bred a few more.—C. MILLER, *Dalston*; August 5, 1856.

*Clostera Curtula* near *Newmarket*.—On Friday, the 1st inst., I captured a beautiful specimen of *Curtula* at rest on the trunk of a tree: there were two, but one on beholding the ignominious end of its partner made the best use of its wings, and was soon invisible. I should not have troubled you with this but for the ♀ I saw in the 'Manual' yesterday. The

presence of these, I should say, implies that another brood is now out.—E. WAGSTAFF, *Chippenham, Newmarket*; August 5, 1856.

*Steropes Paniscus* at *Cirencester*.—I was in error as to *Puniseus*. I had no work at hand, and trusting to memory made the mistake. I send the only specimen I took that you may see what it is.—S. BINGHAM, *Newnham*; August 12, 1856.

[The specimen sent is *Pamphila Sylvanus*.]

*Lophopteryx Cucullina*.—Last Sunday evening, while walking in the woods here, I took a large, but faded, specimen of this insect.—A. H. CLARKE, *Great Marlow, Bucks*; August 6, 1856.

*Cucullia Gnaphalii*.—I have succeeded in finding a very few more of the larvæ of this rarity; but alas! they are horribly infested with a small ichneumon, which walks out of them and spins a web when they are about half grown. I shall be glad to send these to any scientific collector of ichneumons who may think it worth while to apply for them on the chance of their producing something out of the way.—W. H. HAWKER, *Horndean, Hants*; August 11, 1856.

*A Day on Box Hill*.—Last Thursday my friend Mr. Newnham and I made an excursion to Box Hill. On the south slope we took one *Ennomos Illustraria*, and several *Pamphila comma*, *Pyrausta anguinialis* and *ostrinalis*, hovering over flowers, with which the hill is literally carpeted. *Setina irrorella* was abundant among junipers. *Dosithea ornataria* and *Aspilates gilvaria* we took rising from the grass. By beating junipers we captured *Ypsolophus marginellus*, *Peronea aspersana*, and *Depressaria subpropinquella*. At the top of the hill we were honoured by a short interview with his majesty *Apatura Iris*; but he concluded it more abruptly than we wished.—S. C. TRESS BEALE, *Tenterden, Kent*; August 9, 1856.

*Coleophora conspicuella* (LEP.).—On the 2nd inst. I took a specimen of this insect in the Hilly Field at Headley Lane.—H. TOMPKINS, 90, *Guildford Street, Russell Square, London; August 12, 1856.*

*Tinea caprimulgella* (LEP.).—I met with a fine example of this species on an oak tree in Hyde Park at the latter end of July.—IBID.

*English and Latin names.*—Several papers have appeared in the 'Intelligencer' respecting English and Latin names: you appear to recommend the latter, but you do not lay down any plan for teaching them to those who are unacquainted with the Latin language. You would think it ridiculous in a school-master to attempt to teach a pupil a foreign language by laying before him about two thousand words and not giving him their meaning in his own language: yet so it is with your Latin names. I happen to be acquainted with about twenty entomologists in my immediate neighbourhood and only one out of the number knows any thing of Latin names; therefore they can neither receive nor give information on the subject, and wherever such a state of things as this exists I know there is some defect in the teaching of the science. I believe the Latin names are given to insects from some peculiarity in their structure or habits: if the meaning of the names were understood it would at once point out that peculiarity, and thereby enable the entomologist to give names to insects, also to retain those names in memory. I have no doubt that we are taking insects commonly here that are rare in some places, and we could easily supply those places did we understand entomological language. I hope you will in some way or other try to remove the obstacle that lies in the way of the unclassical entomologist.—W. C. BUCKLEY, *Houley; July 14, 1856.*

*Recently hatched Lepidoptera.*—With

all due deference for the opinion of a man of Mr. Noreombe's experience, I must yet object that his reason for Lepidoptera hanging their wings downwards is not quite satisfactory. I cannot claim the same knowledge of the subject as the writer, but I have bred some moths, and I have observed that they will not only hang their wings downwards if placed horizontally, but throw them outwards if sitting perpendicularly; in short whatever their position may be they throw their wings away from their bodies, a fact which is not quite reconcilable with Mr. Noreombe's theory. Now allow me to offer what appears to me to be the common sense view of the matter:—Insects when they emerge from the chrysalis are always in a soft, helpless condition: may they not instinctively throw their wings from their damp bodies into a position in which they will more effectually catch the air and dry and harden the quicker?—C. D. SAVAGE, 5, *Havill Street, Camberwell; July 15, 1856.*

*Botany for Incipients.*—The endless variety of trees and flowers now adorning every hedge and field renders some knowledge of botany indispensable to the practical entomologist. It is indeed true that Entomology and Botany are sister sciences, and in the case of the entomologist the study of the latter must follow closely upon that of the former. "This is no news" is probably the remark of some of the readers of the 'Intelligencer': true, but I wish to recommend to those who are in want of such a work a book which I have found of great service in determining the name and properties of a plant without the usual alarming impediments in the shape of hard words and phrases. The title is 'Flowers of the Field;' by the Rev. C. A. Johns. It is published at a moderate price by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. This little book was recommended to me by a highly esteemed friend, and I am anxious that

others should enjoy a similar advantage. S. C. TRESS BEALE, *Ivy Court, Tenterden.*

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MISCELLANEA.

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THE PRIZE BULL.

We live in queer times, and my writing you this is an instance of it; but, since the commotion that has arisen amongst entomologists, we insects have had to attend to our education more than we used to do, and there are few of us now but what can read and write. Read we must, because there is scarcely an insect in the country which has not a direct interest in knowing what is contained in each number of the 'Intelligencer,' a little paragraph there sometimes causing us to be massacred by hundreds. To write is almost as needful, in order that we may be able to appeal to your columns for justice when we feel we are unfairly persecuted.

I do not generally take in the 'Zoo-logist;' but in consequence of your notice last week that it contained an amusing article by Mr. Gregson, I procured a copy, and have read Mr. Gregson's paper, which has caused me many a hearty laugh, and I always was fond of laughing from the time I first came out of pupa and laughed all the scales off my wings.

My friend *Minos*, who is very rich in Irish anecdote, once told me the following tale.

"A gentleman was writing in a coffee-room, at Dublin, a letter to a friend, and an Irishman, with more curiosity than manners, kept looking over his shoulder and reading the letter as he wrote it. The letter writer took no notice of this impertinence, but concluded his epistle to his friend with these words: 'I would write more, but a great awkward Irishman is looking over my shoulder reading

every word I write.' On this the Irishman exclaimed, 'That's a lie!' yet, by so doing, proved that it was true."

I thought when I heard this tale it was impossible any one could do such an absurd thing; but when I read Mr. Gregson's three pages of brag to prove that Lancashire men don't brag, it occurred to me that the influx of Irish into Liverpool must have communicated some Hibernian ideas to the residents there, and that Stanley could produce a Prize Bull even though its name should not be "Master Butterfly," but "Gregson's last."

As to our being looked for before we're found, it's quite true what you say, no one ever dreams of doing such a thing. Half London was at Folkstone the other day looking for *Chrysidiforme* because it *had been* found there; but I know quite well that no entomologist in Lancashire, aye, or Yorkshire either, has ever thought of making a day's excursion in search of me, yet just let some one pick me up by accident, and let it be noised abroad that there's a new British Sphinx, and they'll turn out of Warrington, Manchester, Preston, and other places, to hunt for me, as sure as my name is

HYLÆIFORME.

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SHOULD THE 'INTELLIGENCER'  
HYBERNATE.

Allow me to entertain the hope (with many other persons) that your 'Intelligencer' will not hibernate, but will continue to feed (us "tyros"), and appear in the imago state (*i.e.* a neat volume of useful information) once a year. There are many facts and scraps of information in Entomology to be gleaned from your pages that cannot often be met with anywhere else, that *I* should feel quite a boon companion to have departed this life if the 'Intelligencer' should hibernate.—A CHELSEIAN.

Being very much pleased with the 'Intelligencer' generally, I should be

sorry to find it discontinued during the winter months, and beg to say that I will with much pleasure subscribe to it as a permanent monthly publication. Through the information contained in it I have been enabled to add to my collection, having met with the greatest attention and politeness from those with whom I have communicated.—NORTH LONDON.

With regard to the winter circulation of the 'Intelligencer' allow me to say, that as entomologists are not in pupæ in the winter months, though their insects, many of them are, they require entomological food at that season quite as much as at others, indeed more of the kind the 'Intelligencer' supplies, as their more active summer occupation is over. Young entomologists especially are apt to cool towards the gentle pursuit during the "sad and winter time," and without the 'Intelligencer' would be likely to forget their butterflies in the rougher sports of the field. Indeed it seems to me that the winter is the time for the 'Intelligencer' to get thoroughly read, whereas it now gets glanced over hastily and thrown aside, that the more important expedition, or grand extension, may be proceeded with. Let your correspondents who now send you hurried scraps of information reserve for the leisure hours of winter longer and more graphic sketches of the golden days of midsummer, to entertain your readers round their firesides. I hope to do my share in an account of my expedition to Cornwall when I have more leisure; but I have purposely omitted recording several good captures lately because I feel that I am not quite sure of the names of some without my books, which I have left at home.—A VOICE FROM THE FAR WEST.

SWISS NOCTUÆ NRED.—We are requested to state that Herr Widmer, the Curator of the Zoological Museum at

Zurich, has bred specimens of the following species for sale:—

Phlogophora scita,  
Plusia moneta,  
,, concha,  
,, illustris,  
,, orichalcea.

The first named at 2s. a pair; the remaining four at 1s. a pair. We shall be happy to receive and forward applications for these insects.

LISTS OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA.—I have now plenty of lists for interchange among collectors of British Lepidoptera (excepting the Tineina). I shall be glad to send them, *post free*, for 1s. a dozen. The arrangement is that followed by Mr. H. Doubleday. — THOMAS CHAPMAN, 56, Buchanan Street, Glasgow; August 9, 1856.

WEDNESDAY EVENING'S RAMBLE UP BURNT-ASH LANE.—On this occasion we met two incipients; the knowing ones being unrepresented. We believe those who came were well satisfied with their sport, and are willing to repeat the visit on the 27th inst. *En route* we passed two of the progeny of "the veteran" with "roguish eyes," but they did not join us in Burnt-Ash Lane. On our return we found some entomologist had called expecting to find us "at home." We take this opportunity of expressing our regret that we did not see him: he should read the 'Intelligencer.'

#### THE WAY TO MOUNTSFIELD.

A GUIDE FOR STRANGERS.

Would you seek the way to Mountsfield—  
Would you know it—would you find it,  
You must kindly learn these verses;  
If they're rude, you must not mind it.



When you leave the Lewisham Station,  
You must take the left-hand turning,  
Keep the road straight through the turn-  
pike,  
The sun upon your right cheek burning.

When the turupike lies behind you,  
A road upon your left you see ;  
That's the road you must not follow,  
For if you do you'll go to Lee.

Keep the main road through the village  
Until you've gone full half a mile ; [bles,  
The gravell'd footpath's rough with peb-  
-And p'raps torments your corns the while.

When a wood-yard you are passing,  
And glimpse of the church tower just  
catch,  
Take the turning on your left hand,  
The grocer at the corner's " Patch."

As you are walking up this lane,  
A brick-wall stands upon your left,  
The *Draba verna* grows upon it  
Luxuriantly in every cleft.

A row of houses stands before you,  
The road you want behind them goes,  
A well you'll then see on your left,  
And near it a fine hop-plant grows.

You pass some houses on your right,  
Which seem to try the varied dodge,  
One is taller than the others ; [Lodge."  
See, there's its name, " Benbraden

Then passing by the " Spotted Cow,"  
A pond you'll notice on your right,  
Proceed along this country lane,  
And Shooter's Hill will come in sight.

Now pause, for here *two* roads you meet,  
To th' right or else you will be wrong,  
Th' road goes sweeping round two  
corners,

But follow it, the way's not long.

To th' left an *oaken* gate you see,  
The entrance to a gravelled drive,  
Open this gate and walk up boldly,  
And thus at Mountsfield you'll arrive.

*Dedicated by Permission to Her Most  
Gracious Majesty the Queen.*

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, August 16, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 21.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S ANNUAL.

THE Second Thousand of the 'Entomologist's Annual for 1856' is now on sale. That is "a great fact."

Two years have not elapsed since those who might be supposed competent to judge gravely recommended that only two hundred and fifty copies of the 'Annual' should be printed; the demand was sure never to reach five hundred!

The established position of the 'Annual' has induced us to look in various directions for assistance, so that its actual value may not only be maintained, but its efficacy increased: we are not content with standing still.

The 'Annual for 1857' will be found to contain articles by more than one additional writer of eminence.

But further, the 'Annual' in its present form does not satisfy a great many people. Some object to its flimsy yellow boards and cheap appearance: they say they would prefer a better-looking book, a book they should not be ashamed to see on their library table or bookshelves, and that to have such a book they would willingly pay a higher price. The 'Annual' at half-a-crown is preposterous, it is too cheap; why not let them have a good book and charge them five shillings for it?

Then, on the other hand, we hear

grave objections—the book is too dear; there is no need for the paper to be so good, or the plate to be coloured; why not make it a shilling? and you will sell twenty copies for every one you sell now. An annual tax of half-a-crown is more than many like to pay; and if you want to spread knowledge you must make it cheap. "Incidit in Scyllam, qui vult vitare Charybdin," how in the world can we oblige these two opposite classes?

Thus, of the 'Entomologist's Annual for 1857' there will simultaneously issue three editions. There will be the *Original* Edition in yellow cover, with coloured plate, price Half-a-Crown, which we hope will be quite as good as the 'Entomologist's Annual for 1856.' There will be the *Library* Edition in cloth, gilt, with superiorly coloured plate, thicker paper, price Five Shillings. And there will be '*The People's Shilling* Edition,' in thick paper cover, with uncoloured plate, and thin paper, by which means the same intellectual treat will be furnished for ONE SHILLING which the wealthier entomologist regales on for five times that sum. The 'Entomologist's Annual' is for all classes; and it tries to accommodate itself to the varying wants of all. May it succeed in this attempt.

The three Editions of the 'Entomologist's Annual for 1857' will be published in December of this year; probably about a week before Christmas.

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RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 1s. 4d. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

---

Mr. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, the 27th inst.

Mr. STANTON will proceed on that evening on a collecting expedition up Burnt-Ash Lane: he will be at the finger-post where the lane forks at 6.30 P.M. Entomologists from London who may wish to join him there should leave by the 5.30 train for Blackheath, proceed thence to the Tiger's Head, opposite to which runs the rural lane of Burnt-Ash: the finger-post is a quarter of a mile up the lane. Incipients who are too shy or too afraid of intruding to come to Mountsfield may perhaps pluck up courage enough to meet one in a lanc. Incipients are requested not to come unprovided with nets.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Subscribers who do not receive the

'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

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Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.

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OUR HYBERNATION will form the subject of our next leading article.

'INSECTA BRITANNICA,' Vol. III. (*Lepidoptera Tineina*). We can send you a copy if you *really* want it. Price 28s. post free.

C. F. WOODS, LONDON, has omitted to give us the street where he lives and the number.

J. FOXCROFT.—Notices of captures and observations are admissible. Advertisements must be paid for.

J. B.—Your long-horned creature is no doubt one of the *Phryganidæ*, many of which have much resemblance to moths.

W. HARGRAVE.—Don't know.

R. W., ACCRINGTON.—All beetles when first emerging from the pupa have the elytra soft and dull coloured: their hardness and bright colours come afterwards.

A. N. is thanked. We supposed the *not* was accidentally omitted.

A. S., RUGBY.—The insect you offer is common everywhere: get something better.

J. D., J. P., T. L. C., E. B., T. H. A.—Orders for Widmer's *Noctuæ* received: shall have attention.

J. P. T.—Larvæ of *Monacha* will hatch this year, and then remain small in a nest, without feeding, through the winter: try them with oak.

E. R. W.—*Depressaria Heraclæana*: it is common. We are pleased to see you set a *Tinea* so well.

DOVE.—We fear we cannot advise you.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*Asyehna æratella* (LEP.).—When sweeping on the Downs, at Sanderstead, one day early last month, I obtained a beautiful specimen of this species.—H. TOMPKINS, 90, *Guildford Street, Russell Square, London*; August 12, 1856.

*Three-winged Insects*.—I have in my cabinet bred specimens of *Notaria* and *Argyresthia curvella* in which one hind wing is wanting. I have also taken *Erastria fuseula* with only three wings; and last March I bred a specimen of *Semioscopis Avellanella* with both hind wings wanting.—W. MACHIN, 35, *William Street, Globe Fields, Mile End*; August 9, 1856.

*Orgyia gonostigma* and *Retinia sylvestrana*.—I have bred specimens of both species in duplicate, and should be glad to hear from those who are in want of either.—F. O. STANDISH, 2, *Alfred Cottages, Warner Road, Camberwell*.

*Apleeta oeculta*.—On the 10th inst. I took this insect, and a few specimens of *Lupernia connexa* from the trunks of trees.—W. LAYCOCK, 154, *Bath Street, Sheffield*; August 11, 1856.

*Captures near Deal*.—I have lately taken here

*Lithosia complana*,  
*Porthesia chrysoorrhæa*,  
*Leucania phragmitidis*,  
*Miana literosa*,  
*Agrotis valligera*,  
*Eremobia ochroleuca* from the seeds  
of grass,  
*Aspilates citraria*, second brood,  
*Charissa obfuscaria*, &c.

*Cicindela maritima* is common on the sand-hills.—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; August 12, 1856.

*Doings in the Isle of Wight*.—A very fine specimen of *Acherontia Atropos* has been bred from the pupa by a rustic in this neighbourhood. It issued from its

pupa-case on Sunday evening last, and was found under the table by the wife, who took it for a mouse, from its large size and its peculiar squeaking noise. I endeavoured to induce the man to part with it, but he had a fixed determination to send it to the British Museum of London, and accordingly would not part with it for love or money (at least for no sum under five shillings). *Arge Galathea* swarms along the under-cliffs the whole distance from Ventnor to Blackgang Chine, at which latter place it was so abundant on the 5th inst. that I could have caught a hundred or two. *Hipparchia Hyperanthus* has been very common in the woods about here, but is now rapidly disappearing, and *Semele* is very frequent on the cliffs. *Argynnis Paphia* abounds in the woods and copses, together with *Thecla Quercus*. I have seen two specimens of *Vanessa Polychloros*, and captured two of *Polyommatus Agestis*. *Pamphila sylvanus* and *linea* are in great force everywhere; and I am not quite sure whether *Comma* is not to be found. Every morning and evening I see two or three specimens of *Macroglossa Stellatarum* darting about flowers, but as yet have only captured two specimens. I have also taken two specimens of *Cynthia Cardui*, one in a clover-field, and the other on the summit of a cliff. I have been searching carefully for *Lathonia* and *Hyale* in clover-fields and woods, but have not yet been fortunate enough to discover either.—ROLAND TRIMEN, *Pomona Cottage, Shanklin, Isle of Wight*; August 8, 1856.

*Search the Gas-Lights*.—I should recommend those collectors who live in the suburbs of towns, where the gas-lamps are alight all night, to be up early in the morning and look on the outside of the glass: they will be amply repaid by the capture of many an insect they little thought frequented their neighbourhood. We have found it so at Bristol. The

collector who was first out of bed in the morning had all the sport. This led to a rivalry as to who should be out first. He who was out at five o'clock and found another had been half an hour before him, was sure to be out at four the next morning; and if two collectors happened to be out together there was regular racing for the lamps. At last there was nothing at all to be taken; and then it was found that one of the collectors was *out all night*. Now go what hour of the night you like to Ashley Hill you see one or two nets waving round the lamps; and it is curious and instructive to observe the various hours at which certain insects appear.

We catch all night  
By the pale gas-light,

And go home with our sport in the morning.

—ARTHUR NAIISH, *Brooklyn Lodge, Ashley Hill, Bristol; August 11, 1856.*

*Offers of good Pupæ.*—I have been informed that many collectors are in want of good specimens of the following insects:—*Pæcilocampa Populi*, *Pterostoma palpina*, *Leiocampa dictæa*, *Chaonia dodonæa*, *Acronyeta megacephala*, and *A. Ligustri*. I annually take a considerable number (*Dodonæa* excepted) of the pupæ of these species, and not knowing that they were wanted have let them go. This, therefore, is to give notice that if any entomologist be in want of all, or any of the above, and will write to me at once, I shall be happy, if spared, and successful at the "diggiugs," to supply them next year, so long as the duplicates may last. — REV. JOSEPH GREENE, *Playford, Ipswich.*

*The Colour of the Larva and Pupa of Bactra lauecolana.*—Referring to Mr. Logan's remark relative to the colour of the larva and pupa of this insect in No. 14 of the 'Intelligencer,' I beg to differ from him on both points, and I have been thus long in replying thinking that some others might have been induced to collect the larva (mentioned by me in

No. 4 of the same periodical) for the purpose of observing the habits of the supposed *Thrasonella*, and that they would have communicated the result of such observation. None having appeared, and as it would be a great pity to see any of the figures in the work which Mr. Logan has for so many years promised to bring to light, perhaps spoiled, he will not take it amiss at my suggesting his again taking the larva next spring. If he wish it I will also send him some from this neighbourhood that he may see that I am borne out in my description, and I shall be glad to receive some from him that I may detect the green ones. Then the pupæ of those which I reared were *brown*, and not amber-yellow; and this also can only be solved by next season's larvæ. — JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton, Stockton-on-Tees; August 11, 1856.*

*One of the Broom-seed eaters.*—It is now some years since I first observed pupa-cases projecting from the seed-pods of the broom. I afterwards collected a number of the pods and bred *Tinea fuscipunctella* from them. I remember at the time communicating this to Mr. Staintou, who informed me that he was not surprised at it, having himself reared the same insect from peas. It is also very probable, as Mr. Douglas suggests, that a *Dicrorampha* may feed thereon. — *IBID.*

*Captures of Lepidoptera near Keswick.*—It may interest some of your readers to know that during the last month I have met with the following species here:

*Stilbia anomala*,  
*Spælotes catalæna*,  
*Plusia bractea*,  
*Lobophora sexalisaria*,  
*Coremia olivaria*,  
,, *munitaria*,  
*Phæsyle cæsiaria*,  
,, *flavicinctaria*,  
*Emmelesia blandiaria*,

Emmelesia ericetaria,  
 „ tæniaria,  
 Sciaphila bellana.

—W. GREENIP, *Keswick, Cumberland*;  
*August 9, 1856.*

*Larva of Peronea Cristana.*—This larva has hitherto eluded the search (if search has been made) of every collector. While speaking to Mr. Logan last Saturday week respecting the clue the external appearance of the perfect insects among the Tortricidæ offered in determining their food, it struck me that the larvæ of *Peronea cristana* were either moss or lichen-feeders; and upon subsequent reflection I am not disposed to alter my opinion: at any rate it is worth the search for them among the moss and lichens of the old whitethorn and oak trees in their several habitats, and, perhaps if the thing searched for is not found, something new may be. Mr. Logan had bred *Coccyx splendidulana* from the green moss on trees.—R. SHIELD, *Leith Walk, Edinburgh*;  
*August 12, 1856.*

[Twenty years ago the general idea was that the “button” larvæ fed on lichens, but we never heard that any one established whether the idea was correct or not.]

*How the Post-office breaks our boxes.*—A lady staying here lately, who is connected with one of the London receiving houses, tells me that the men who collect the letters, if the bag happens to be pretty full, jump upon them and push them in with their feet.—ARTHUR NAISH, *Bristol*;  
*August 9, 1856.*

*Hint to Oxonians.*—Would that some enterprising entomologist would explore the country round Oxford. It seems full of insects. I saw the other day two specimens of *Aporia Cratagi*, and one of *Acherontia Atropos*.—E. G. C.

*Mulgrave Woods, Whitby.*—Should this meet the eye of the entomologist who was hunting after Lepidoptera in our neighbourhood, would he have the

kindness to inform me what species it was he wanted to take in the above-named locality, also what time it was out; as I have little time to search, he would be conferring a real kindness on me. The parties of whom he was enquiring for a net told me the circumstance.—JOHN BRAIN, *Sleight's Bridge, Whitby*;  
*August 15, 1856.*

*Colias Edusa.*—A specimen was seen at Andover the other day by an entomological friend, whose ardour has nearly evaporated.—H. T. STAINTON;  
*August 16, 1856.*

*Edusa at Forest Hill.*—While riding in the train last Wednesday on the Brighton line I saw two specimens of *Colias Edusa* flying on the bank: I therefore got out at the next station, Forest Hill, returned to the place and caught them both, but could not find any more: they were in excellent condition, and could not have long emerged from the pupa.—CHARLES G. BARRETT,  
*37, Park Street, Mile End*;  
*August 18, 1856.*

*Great Gathering of Phædon Vitellinæ (COL.).*—On Wednesday, the 13th, at 6.30 p. m., the hour of Mr. Stainton's levée at the finger-post, I was wending my way quietly along a tributary lane in company with Mr. Douglas and some minor luminaries in entomological science, when I espied a twig of aspen, the leaves of which were so loaded with *Phædon Vitellinæ* as to give it a most abnormal brilliancy. One tap of the beating-stick produced a shower of these living gems: the net was thickly studded with them; no less than four hundred and eighty were bottled, and I believe full as many were turned adrift. Mr. Douglas and I have often thrashed the same hedges, in the same lane, at the same time, and with the same weapons, and I cannot recollect having seen a single *Phædon* previously taken there. This occasional abundance of a species in localities where it had not been ob-

served before is a fact familiar to all experts in our craft; and many a record of such occurrences might be preserved with far greater advantage to science than those apocryphal statements about Bath Whites, &c., to which we are occasionally treated.—EDWARD NEWMAN: *August 16, 1856.*

*Erebia Cassiope*.—Last week I captured a good number of this species on Ben Lomond.—MORRIS YOUNG, *Old Sneddon Street, Paisley; August 15, 1856.*

*Captures of Coleoptera in Renfrewshire*.—During the past summer I have taken in Renfrewshire the following species of Hydradephaga:—

- Dytiscus marginalis*, common,
- „ *punctulatus*, common,
- Acilius sulcatus*, not very common,
- „ *fasciatus*, local, but abundant,
- Colymbetes fuscus*, common,
- „ *pulverosus*, 2 specimens,
- „ *notatus*, 1 specimen,
- „ *exoletus*, common,
- „ *bistriatus*, not very abundant,
- Ilybius ater*, common,
- „ *guttiger*, local, but very abundant,
- „ *uliginosus*, very common,
- Agabus areticus*, local, but very abundant,
- „ *Sturmii*, very common,
- „ *ehalconotus*, not very abundant,
- „ *maeulatus*, abundant,
- „ *paludosus*, abundant,
- „ *bipunctatus*, common,
- „ *guttatus*, abundant,
- „ *fontinalis*, local: I have taken 50 males and a proportionate number of females,
- „ *affinis*, local, but very abundant,
- „ *bipustulatus*, common.

In a future number of the 'Intelligencer' I may continue my list of Ren-

frewshire species. I shall be most happy to exchange my captures for such as are not found in this neighbourhood.—IBID.

*Laverna conturbatella* at Preston.—I have this species by me, which I took two or three years ago along with *Eidophasia Messingiella*: it agrees with those which Mr. Maehin sent me.—J. B. HODGKINSON, *Preston; August 18, 1856.*

*Simaethis scintillulana* at Preston.—This day, Sunday, I have taken a few hundreds of this pretty species among wild mint: they were flying by thousands, another instance of the non-rarity of any species when the peculiarity of the species is found out: a score of those beautiful spangled little fellows might be seen sitting on one plant; the tops of the plants were all puckered together with the larva in the space of a few yards.—IBID.

*Captures at Darenth Wood*.—During the past week, while at Darn, I have had the good fortune to capture a fair specimen of *Deilephila Galii* while fluttering over the blossoms of the honeysuckle, and a few specimens of *Arge Galathea*, which, I am told, has not occurred there for many years. I also saw *Apatura Iris* several times, but unfortunately did not succeed in capturing it.—HENRY MERCER, *Spital Square; August 16, 1856.*

*Polyommatus Acis*.—This is reported to have occurred at Ventnor lately. This, if true, is quite a new locality for that species. Can it have gone there in search of *Galathea*?—H. T. STANTON; *August 20, 1856.*

*Larva of Agrotis Ashworthii*.—I have at present four or five larvæ of this species, reared from eggs sent from Wales by Mr. Foxcroft. They are now in their second moult, and have no resemblance to the larvæ of *Agrotis*, being green with a white lateral line, and in habit as well as colour resemble more the larvæ of the genus *Polia*. They are now feeding on *Campanula rotundifolia*, though at first



they did not object to *Calluna vulgaris*; and when at rest stretch themselves out along the leaves and stems like the larvæ of *Epunda nigra*.—R. F. LOGAN, *Hawthornbrae, Duddingstone, near Edinburgh*; August 18, 1856.

*New British Ichneumon.*—Having bred some Ichneumons from the pupæ of *Odontia dentalis*, and not knowing them, I sent a pair to Mr. Desvignes, and received from him the following reply:—“The Ichneumons you have sent me, reared from *Dentalis*, appear to be *Pimpla mandibularis*, Grav. It is new to Britain. I certainly should be glad of more specimens, and particularly the male, as it has not been described yet. I hope you have taken other Ichneumons as well as *Leps*. I suppose you will leave the *Ark* when the flood has subsided.—THOMAS DESVIGNES.”—H. J. HARDING, *Noah's Ark, Peter Street, Deal*; August 19, 1856.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

##### ACCRINGTON NATURALIST SOCIETY.

August 2nd, William Naylor, President, in the Chair.

Mr. W. Boothman exhibited a box of recently captured insects: amongst them were *Plusia bractea*, *Melanthia albicollaria*, and *Abraxas ulmaria*, taken at Whalley.

Mr. R. Hartley exhibited specimens of *Sphecia Bembeciformis* taken at Boxenden.

Mr. Beaghan exhibited *Emmelesia rivulata* taken at Whalley.

Mr. J. Heys and Mr. J. Parkinson exhibited specimens of *Aplecta herbida* taken at Whalley.

Mr. J. Wade exhibited *Thyatira batis* taken at Ighton Park.

Mr. Bortwel exhibited an *Aromia moschata* taken at Southport.

#### SEARCH THE (*Wood Betony*) *BETONICA OFFICINALIS*.

Surely, now this plant is in flower, many of our readers must look at it and notice it many a time and oft. It is a wood-loving plant, and also grows in rank hedges, particularly if the soil be sandy. Search it well for mined leaves; leaves mined in large blotches with much excrement therein. Ha! you have found one; good! hold it to the light and let us see what is inside. Nothing say you? No! that cannot be, something must have made this mine: stay, here on the under side, close to the midrib, is some white silk. Oh! the cunning creature; he felt the plant shake as you picked the leaf and ran out of the mine where he had been feeding into this hiding place of his. But what is it? Oh, it is the larva of *Heydeniella*, one of the genus *Asychna*, or else closely allied to it. The perfect insect beats *Schrankella* for beauty.

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#### THE 'INTELLIGENCER'S' HYBERNATION.

Mr. Editor,—I have been loaded and primed for some time, please let me “go off”—I am only a pocket-pistol, and shall not make much noise. There are two sides to most questions, but we are such a selfish race (entomologists not excepted) that we only look to our own; at least such appears to be the case with the question of the hibernation of the ‘Intelligencer.’ The party really most concerned in the matter is yourself; your correspondents seem altogether to overlook that fact. You have been on the wing all the summer, and have too, occasionally, flown rather high, whether you have got rubbed you best know. It should, in the first instance, have been asked whether you, Mr. Editor, want rest. Can you keep up during the winter? It would be a melancholy thing to see you worn or wingless when spring arrives.

Before further discussion as to the desirableness of the 'Intelligencer' continuing, the question ought to be plainly put and answered, Are you disposed to give your time, and the trouble necessary as Editor, during the dreary months? If you say No, then let us pass a unanimous vote of thanks for what you have done, and wish you comfortable quarters till spring; if you say Yes, then ought we to send you a drop of delicious nectar in a gold (snuff) box, to cheer you on, and promises of abundant help; for who that has been much in the woods and fields, and has not determinedly kept his eyes closed, could not send you a few articles that would interest your readers, and perhaps—yes, even perhaps relate something that the "knowing ones" wot not of.

I must not further trespass on your space, but I wished to remind your correspondents that in discussing as to the hibernation of your periodical your convenience should not be entirely overlooked.—GEORGE GASCOYNE, *Newark*; August 4, 1856.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, August 23, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 22.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## OUR HYBERNATION.

WE now approach the consideration of this important subject. Besides the correspondence that has appeared in our columns on the subject we have received sundry other letters, which want of space, and perhaps our excessive modesty, deterred us from publishing.

It is very evident to us that a large class of our readers are very desirous that the 'Intelligencer' should be continued during the winter. One urgent appeal was on the ground that many people lose their interest for Entomology during the winter months, and that the constant weekly drop, drop, drop, of the 'Intelligencer' would serve to lubricate their intellects and prevent their rusting, it would operate "Non vi, sed sæpe cadendo." But suppose that many people in consequence of the winter lessening their interest in Entomology discontinued taking in the 'Intelligencer:' such a consummation is possible, and it behoves us to consider the matter in both points of view.

One recommends that the 'Intelligencer' should be continued for the publication of lists of duplicates, as there is hardly time during "the season" to know what duplicates one has, and the winter is the very season for distributing them. But is the 'Intelligencer' necessary for that purpose?

Another recommends that long accounts of rambles through forest and field, through woodland and heath, would appropriately serve to enliven our fire-sides in winter by reminding us of our doings in summer. But surely we don't want the 'Intelligencer' to give us news six months old.

Then, again, supposing the 'Intelligencer' were continued, should we average one piece of *intelligence* per week? We doubt it.

Entomologists may want something, and may fancy they want the 'Intelligencer'; but perhaps they might find after all it was only "the moon in the pail of water." It is by no means clear to us that the 'Intelligencer' would answer *their* purpose, and it certainly would not answer *ours*.

The 'Intelligencer' will hibernate. No. 26 will appear on the 27th September, 1856, and No. 27 on the 4th April, 1857.

At the same time, whilst making this announcement, we do not wish to be thought by any means unmindful of the wants of our readers. Though we cannot supply an 'Intelligencer' during the winter, perhaps we may be able to make some arrangements to supply a brumal substitute for it; but the consideration of the form, nature, and price, of that substitute, we must reserve till our next Number.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 1s. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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MR. STANTON will be at home at 6 P. M. on Wednesday next as usual. Trains leave London Bridge for the Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.23, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

In the 'Intelligencer,' No. 20, at pp. 158, 159, will be found instructions whereby strangers can find their way to Mountsfield without a guide.

MR. STANTON will not be at home on Wednesday, September 10th. In future he will only be "at home" the first Wednesday in each month.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are

requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

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Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.

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Those who wish to complete their series of the 'INTELLIGENCER' should do so before the end of September, as the numbers will not be sold separately after the close of next month.

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W. G., HYDE PARK SQUARE.—Your insect is *Alueita polydactyla*, the Twenty Plume.

F. K., MANCHESTER.—Name shall appear.

ELEMENTS OF ENTOMOLOGY.—In the press. Full particulars will be shortly announced.

F. OATES.—Your insect is *Polyphasia inmanata*: it is common.

ONE NOT FAR FROM THE PLACE.—One who could act as you describe is beyond the reach of argument, and should be handed over to the police: if he gave a blow he could be prosecuted for an assault.

H. W. B.—Your Lepidopterous insect is *Cerostoma Xylostella*. We will ascertain the names of your Hymenopterous and Dipterous insects if we can.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Thecla W-Album*.—In a little wood near Barton, part in fact of Needwood Forest in Staffordshire, I caught the other day two of *Thecla W-Album*, and saw a third specimen.—R. C. R. JORDAN, M.D., 25, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham; August 21, 1856.

*Dosithea Eburnata* in Wales.—This pretty little species has again occurred in

its old locality.—H. T. STANTON; August 22, 1856.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—A larva of the Death's Head taken in this neighbourhood was brought to me this morning.—R. H. FREMLIN, *Wateringbury, near Maidstone*; August 19, 1856.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—A specimen of the larva of this insect was brought to me this morning; the gardener having found it while digging potatoes. It appears to be nearly, if not quite, full-fed.—T. WOLLASTON, *Dovers, Reigate*; August 25, 1856.

*Heterogenea Asellus*.—This insect appears to have been taken in some plenty this year.—H. T. STANTON; August 22, 1856.

*Acentropus niveus* (LEP. or NEU.?)—In some list of British Micro-Lepidoptera there was lately included an insect at the end of the *Tineidæ* under the name of *Acentropus niveus*, St. That this name should have dropped out of later lists, leaving no synonymic record of itself, must have puzzled many young entomologists who were not aware of this insect having enjoyed the singular distinction of being ranged with the Lepidoptera by Westwood, with Trichopterous insects by Curtis, and with the Neuroptera by Stephens. I do not profess to decide "where doctors disagree;" but if any of your readers, with a philosophical turn of mind, wish to investigate for themselves I shall be happy to supply them with the species. Some years ago I took a single example of this anomalous insect in an osier bed, and until this year have sought for it again in vain. On the 16th inst. I rowed up the river Trent for the purpose of examining the vegetable growth that in some parts nearly chokes up the stream, when my eye alighted on *Acentropus niveus* skipping along over the surface. I immediately sought carefully for more examples, but for upwards of an hour I could only find an occasional dead speci-

men floating on the stream. I had nearly given up the search, when upon a small patch of *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *P. peetinatus* I descried a score or two of living examples quietly sitting upon the protruding leaves: these I secured for the benefit of my friends: but I am sorry to say I am still unable to throw any light upon the history of the little creature in its earlier state. One step is, however, gained: I now know the breeding place of the species, and future research may possibly then disclose its "inner life."—E. BROWN, *Burton-on-Trent*; August 18, 1856.

*Lepidoptera near Llanelly, Carmarthen-shire*.—I am leaving this neighbourhood on the 28th. Cross Inn is a very good entomological district, but the very unfavourable weather, which usually prevails here, damages the specimens very much, so that everything I capture looks wasted, and gives full proof that a high wind is not good for the constitution of a "downy-wing." The following are the more important of my captures:—

Argynnis Euphrosyne,  
 ,, Paphia,  
 Melitæa Artemis,  
 Nemeobius Lucina,  
 Arge Galathea,  
 Thecla Rubi,  
 Pamphila Linea,  
 Smerinthus Populi, and  
 Thyatira derasa.

—WILLIAM BAKER, *Cross Inn*; August 21, 1856.

*Discovery of the larva of Bucculatrix Demaryella* (LEP.).—Mr. Wilkinson, of Scarborough, has added another scrap to our knowledge of the genus *Bucculatrix* by finding a birch-feeding larva. Having taken the perfect insect of *Demaryella* freely from the birch trees at the end of May and beginning of June, he was led to suspect that the larva would feed on the birch, and has now had the pleasure of verifying his conjecture by finding the larva of a *Bucculatrix* feeding on the

birch. I should be very glad if some one would find the larva of the elm-feeding *Bucculatrix Boyerella*, which I believe has never yet been found here; neither has the oak-feeding larva of *B. Ulmella*.—H. T. STAINTON; August 23, 1856.

*Bucculatrix Cidarella* (LEP.).—The larva of this species is very abundant this season on the alders.—T. WILKINSON, Scarborough; August 22, 1856.

*Bucculatrix Hippocastanella* (LEP.).—Mr. Ashworth has sent me some of this larva, having found it on a lime tree at Llangollen.—H. T. STAINTON; August 27, 1856.

*Coleophora albicosta* (LEP.).—I have lately received from Mr. Law, of Darlington, the larva of this species: it appears to be fond of the seeds of the furze, attaching its case to the side of the pods and boring into them. The larva of *C. Coronilla*, which I lately received from Herr Müblig, of Frankfort, appears to treat the seeds of the *Coronilla varia* in a similar way. Mr. Boyd has found the *Coleophora* which feeds on the seeds of the *Silene inflata* again this season: it ought to be still at work.—IBID.

*Larvæ on Inula dysenterica*.—At this season of the year beds of this plant, with its whitish-green downy leaves and bright yellow flowers, frequently attract attention, and those who gather a bouquet of the plant notice a peculiar smell, which association of ideas is apt to suggest is disagreeable: but if the flowers be carefully examined in some the central florets will appear to have started from the receptacle, and to be standing, as it were, on tip-toe, so as to get a better view than their neighbours. This peculiarity of the plant, at first suggesting the idea that emulation and rivalry is not confined to the animal kingdom, was detected two weeks ago by Mr. Douglas, and he found a larva, no doubt one of his dearly-beloved *Gelechia*, had caused the commotion among the

florets. Having duly collected a number of the flower-heads with this peculiarity, he has been agreeably surprised by rearing several specimens of *Gelechia paupella*, or what, at any rate if not that species, is a very good imitation of it. I do not suppose this larva is confined to the neighbourhood of Lee, where Mr. Douglas found it, more especially as I have collected it on Wray Common, and in another locality near Reigate.—H. T. STAINTON; August 25, 1856.

*Prionus Coriarius* (COL.).—Six specimens of this insect have occurred near Worth, in Sussex, lately.—H. T. STAINTON; August 26, 1856.

*Duplicate Butterflies*.—I have now on hand several of the following:—

Arge Galathea,  
Limenitis Sibilla,  
Aporia Cratægi,  
Apatura Iris,  
Argynnis Adippe,  
,, Paphia,

which I should be glad to exchange with other entomologists who may be in want of any of them. I am myself wanting

Grapta C-Album,  
Erebia blandina,  
Thecla Betule,  
,, Pruni,  
,, W-Album,  
Polyommatus Arion,  
Saturnia Carpini.

I have no boxes, so that any person in want of anything that I possess will have to send me a box.—A. C. OAKLEY, JUN., Hope Villas, St. Mary's Road, Southampton; August 21, 1856.

*Diptera Orion*.—This has been taken in plenty at sugar this year in the New Forest.—IBID.

*Darlington Lepidoptera*.—Should any of your readers be in want of any of the following I shall be glad to hear from them.

Miana expolita,  
Harpalyce suffumaria,  
,, picaria,

*Abraxas ulmaria*,  
*Strenia clathrata*.

—JONATHAN ORDE, 6, *East Street, Darlington*; August 24, 1856.

*Polyommatus Agestis* at *Boston Spa*.—Having seen from the 'Manual' that *P. Agestis* is found "only in the south," and having found them very frequent at *Boston Spa*, in *Yorkshire*, I thought this occurrence would be interesting to you.—A SCHOOL-BOY ENTOMOLOGIST; August 23, 1856.

*Gracilaria semifascia*.—I am now breeding this insect from larvæ found July 19th, in cones on the upper surface of the maple (*Acer campestre*).—JOHN S. ASHWORTH, *Llangollen*; August 26, 1856.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—Several larvæ of this insect have occurred on a farm at *Hither Green, Lewisham*. The Irish labourers employed in raising potatoes passed and executed judgment on them as formidable enemies to the "Irish Wall-Fruit." One fine full-grown specimen was brought to me uninjured, and took to earth as soon as placed in a proper receptacle.—W. F. MORRIS, *Kent Water-Works, Mill Lane, Deptford*; August 26, 1856.

*Argynnis Lathonia*.—I have again reverted to the description of *Lathonia* in your 'Manual,' and find my insect answers the description of it exactly; therefore I am quite sure it is *Lathonia*. I caught it last Saturday week, which was a fine sunny day, about noon, flying over some thick underwood in a small valley between two young plantations of larch not far from *Chesham*. When I first saw it, it was flying after one of apparently its own species, (but of this I am not quite sure: it may have been *Adippe*). I did not know it was *Lathonia* till I had captured it: it was in very good condition, evidently not long out of the pupa.—HARDINGE W. BROWNE, *Little Germain's, near Chesham, Bucks*; August 26, 1856.

*Synia Musculosa*.—Since I last wrote I have taken a fine specimen of this insect: it was flying round a lamp at the corner of the *Pavilion grounds*, in the very centre of the town. I have also taken, at rest on a wall at *Worthing*, a specimen of what I hope will prove to be *Laphygma exigua*.—HENRY COOKE, 8, *Pelham Terrace, Brighton*; August 25, 1856.

*Offer of Perfect Insects, not Pupæ*.—In reply to my notice last week I have already received so many communications as to make it impossible for me to reply to them *seriatim*. Those, therefore, who may not hear from me may rest assured that as far as possible their application shall be attended to. Several of my correspondents having kindly offered to assist me, if in their power, I wish to state that I expect no return,—that my offer was principally addressed to *beginners*, who would probably not be able to send anything I wanted. *Beginners* will also have a prior claim. Also, some of my correspondents seem to think from my notice I meant to send the PUPÆ. This is not the case: I can only send the perfect insect. Lastly, a ridiculous error (how, I know not) has crept into the notice. I alluded to *Chaonia Dodouæa*. I am ignorant as to where such an insect is to be found. I said nothing about *Chaonia*: my offer had reference to *Notodonta Dodonæa*. My correspondents must therefore blame the printer, and not me, for the mistake.—REV. J. GREENE, *Playford, Ipswich*; August 26, 1856.

*Kensington Gardens*.—This, with its hundreds of trees, in spite of birds, insectivorous and otherwise, produces a great variety of insects; and I am surprised that I never see any one but myself on the look-out for them. I took this evening a fine specimen of *Catoeala Nupta* at rest on a fir tree. Many young collectors would like to take this fine insect. Why do they not come? There

is a group of near fifty fir trees, on which I can always find something, and they may do the same.—T. R. OXLEY, *Photographic Artist, 5, Coburg Place, Bayswater Road; August 24, 1854.*

*Duplicate Tortrices.*—If any one wants *Eupæcilia roseana* I shall be happy to supply them. I have also a few *Cochylis dipoltana* to spare. The second brood of *Lithocolletis hortella* has been more abundant than the early one; but there was no wind to blow them on to the palings until they were sadly worn.—P. H. NEWNHAM, *Stoke Road, Guildford; August 21, 1856.*

*Hyponomeuta vigintipunctatus.*—This is evidently naturalized here. Ten days ago I unfortunately missed a specimen as it flew off the paling; to-day, at the same spot, I took one. The *Sedum Telephium* grows close by.—IBID.

*Plutella Annulatella.*—I have met with this in tolerable plenty. I took ten on Saturday evening. I first met with it on the 5th inst.—T. WILKINSON, *Scarbro'; August 25, 1856.*

*Daplidice in Oxfordshire.*—I was stopping at Stratton Audley, about 15 miles from Oxford, and went to a neighbouring village, called Kingford, to see a collection belonging to the clergyman's wife. On looking into her duplicate-box I perceived one specimen of *Daplidice*, which she told me had been caught a week before, by one of her servants; and she kindly gave it me. The lady had given up collecting for a long time, but did not think fit to throw away such a rare fly. I am perfectly convinced that it is not *Cardamines* ♀, as I have carefully examined it. I trust this will prove satisfactory to you.—E. G. CLAYTON, *125, Eastern Road, Brighton; August 25, 1856.*

[Has our previous correspondent, Mr. Killingbaek, yet ascertained whether the specimens recorded at p. 139 were *Cardamines* or not?]

*Noctua Larva in the Tips of the Leaves*

*of Poa aquatica.*—Whilst gathering the larva of *Elachista cerusella*, on Saturday evening last, my attention was drawn to the ends of the leaves of the plants, each leaf being rolled or rather drawn together for about three inches from the tip, and eaten nearly off just below this. On examination I found nearly all inhabited by a larva. Does any one know what species it produces, or would any one like to have some sent? I took both the larva, pupa and perfect insect of *cerusella*.—JOHN SCOTT, *South Stockton; August 24, 1856.*

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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#### WEDNESDAY EVENING'S RAMBLE UP BURNT-ASH LANE.

On this occasion we met eight entomologists. The night being warm and cloudy an unusual number of Noctuæ were astir, and one of the party took a *Heptia sylvinus*, an insect we had not seen alive since 1842. Only two of the party had lanterns, which were, therefore, in much request as it grew darker. The ramble will be repeated on the 10th September, when incipients are requested to bring lanterns as well as nets.

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#### WHY ENTOMOLOGISTS ARE SCARCE AT RUGBY.

It is possible that there may be some persons living within a quarter of a mile of St. Paul's who never quit that area. Such persons know the elm trees in Doctor's Commons and the elm tree in Wood Street, but they have little notion of other trees; and if they read of such things, the words "woods," "commons," and "heaths," have to them no meaning. We should not expect to find such constant inhabitants of the heart of the city to be entomologically disposed. Their



ideas of insects would naturally be almost confined to flies, cockroaches, crickets, bugs, and fleas, all these insects having long ago had the freedom of the city presented to them, though we fear owing to the neglect of some official no record of the presentation is preserved in the archives at the Chamberlain's office.

Those who see the fewest insects, and the least variety, naturally would be about the last persons to turn their attention to entomology, and we suspect it is principally from this cause, that whereas Eton and Harrow are well represented by entomologists, Rugby is so lamentably deficient. We may wish that the Etonians and Harrovians showed more pluck; for some specially say, "Please, don't insert my name," and others are so extremely bashful that they won't even let us know their names and "par conséquence:" their letters lie behind the fire with other "anonyms communications" unnoticed, and often unread. Now we have been endeavouring to account for the paucity of Rugbæan insect-hunters; and then the thought came across us perhaps the soil is bad for insects and produces none, and then we remembered a recent letter we had received from Warwickshire, from a magnate of the entomological world whilst visiting there, and how he complained that he was then in the Pandemonium of corn-fields, fat cattle, and stout graziers, and how he mourned for the Paradise of the fens of Cambridgeshire so rich in insect life: then just as we were putting our notions together on the subject we stumbled on the following lamentable picture of Rugby and its neighbourhood in one of Dr. Arnold's letters:—"We have no hills; no plains; not a single wood, and but one single copse; no heath; no down; no rock; no river; no clear stream; scarcely any flowers, for the bias is particularly poor in them; nothing but one endless monotony of enclosed fields and hedge-row

trees." Is it wonderful that the dullness of the aspect of the country reacts on the brains of those who, if more fortunately situated, would entomologize? But let us not be hasty: hedges and hedge-row trees will produce insects, and should be hunted accordingly. But is the Flora of Rugby really so poor? We should like to see a list of the plants found wild within a distance of three miles from the School. Can any one send us such a list? We will give a 'World of Insects' for the best list, and a 'Junne' for the second best. We don't mean that we will give an unlimited quantity of insects for the one, nor a month of summer for the other, but the above are the titles of two little books which many of our readers may be glad to have, more especially if they feel they obtain them as a reward for their own diligence.

"How about Winchester?" we hear somebody say. That we must reserve for another occasion. Up to the present time, though Winchester possesses many of the features which Rugby wants, it does not appear particularly rich in entomologists: perhaps, with the rich and varied flora of the chalk, insects are so plentiful that they confuse the incipients—perhaps!

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#### COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF TINEÆ.

This committee met on Wednesday, the 20th inst. *Fuscipunctella* was called to the chair.

The Chairman, on opening the proceedings, said that the proper course to pursue would be for *Merdella* to appear by counsel, and that after his counsel had been heard, other counsel who wished to enlighten the committee could be heard in reply. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Cooke, N.C., then rose and said he appeared as counsel for *Merdella*. He believed he could lay such a case before the committee that their vote would be unanimous that *Merdella* must be ad-

mitted to the rights and privileges of the House of Tineæ. Mr. Cooke, N.C., then produced two cases black with soot, which he had found in a warehouse-window, and from which he had bred two specimens of the insect, and he observed he had also seen *Merdella* in other warehouses: he also called attention to the fact that Mr. Gregson had declared *Merdella* identical with *Pallescentella*, which years ago had been admitted to a seat in their house. He argued that *Merdella* was domiciled at Liverpool, and that unless "Laws and learning, arts and commerce" were to die—(loud cries of "Manners, Manners")—as long as Liverpool remained a wealthy port—as long as wool was warehoused there—so long would *Merdella* be found in the warehouses there. (At the end of this eloquent address, the learned counsel sat down and was loudly cheered.)

Mr. Southgrove then rose to make a few observations. It appeared to him that too much stress was laid upon individual instances. Was their legislation to be of a piecemeal character, and were they not rather to lay down a general rule applicable to all future cases of a similar nature? He regretted he did not observe amongst his juniors a greater habit of generalizing; for his own part he never made a single observation without deducing from it a general law, and though no doubt it might be contended that this was a hasty proceeding, and the laws so deduced ought to be carefully verified—(hear, hear)—still he felt it was his mission to announce these laws, leaving it to others who were fonder of details to prove their correctness. (Loud cries of "Question, question.")

Mr. Southgrove said he had not intentionally wandered from the subject; and with reference to the claims of *Merdella* he must say that he thought unnecessary fuss had been made about it (he meant no allusion to the noble chairman, for he was himself no admirer of puns and a

bad hand at a joke), he would remind the committee that *Coleo*—he meant *Porrectaria Laricella*—had this year proved very injurious to some young larch trees. Now *Laricella* was not known to feed on any tree but the larch, and the larch (*Pinus larix*) was not a native of our island: it had been imported from the North of Europe, and no doubt *Porrectaria Laricella* and other larch feeders had been imported with it: yet *Laricella*, since its first discovery here, had always been admitted to a seat in another place (the House of Coleophoræ).

(The learned counsel, whose address appeared to have had a soporific effect on several of the noble moths present then sat down amidst much cheering.)

Mr. Septimus Oldboy, Member of the Imperial Low Comedy Association of Verona, then rose to say a few words; but at this juncture some wag having turned on a great blaze of gas the assembled moths all congregated round the chandelier, and the meeting was adjourned *sine die*; the counsel and their attendant clerks being all convulsed with laughter.

Now ready, price 3d., No. 7 of

## A MANUAL OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS.

By H. T. STANTON.

The work will contain descriptions of all the British species, with popular readable instructions where to find and how to know them, and is illustrated with numerous wood-cuts.

London: John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row, and to be had of all Booksellers and News Agents.

Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, August 30, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 23.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## OUR SUBSTITUTE.

A LARGE number of our readers think that it would be useful to have a weekly paper for the purpose of publishing lists of duplicates and desiderata.

Cannot such a paper be supplied without our own continuance? We think it can, and the following is our proposition:—

*On Saturday, the 25th of October, will be published the First Number of*

## THE SUBSTITUTE;

Or, Entomological Exchange Facilitator and Entomologist's Fire-side Companion.

This will be continued weekly for twenty weeks.

Each number will consist of twelve pages duodecimo, price 2*d.*

It will contain lists of duplicates and desiderata (which will appear in the order of priority in which they reach the Editor), and it will contain notices of summer rambles, of a more lengthy nature than were suited to our own columns.

All communications for 'The Substitute' to be addressed—*To the Editor of 'The Substitute,' 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street, London.*

Those who wish to have 'The Substitute' forwarded weekly by post, are requested to forward 5*s.* in postage

stamps to the publisher, E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street, on or before Saturday, October 18th, and we trust those who wish well to the undertaking will assist it by furnishing materials.

'The Intelligencer' has for some time past fed itself freely, so that we have had no trouble whatever in filling its pages, and have sometimes been perplexed which communications to hold back; but in its infancy it was rather up-hill work, and we do not wish to see its 'Substitute' labouring under the same disadvantage in early life.

We trust that this arrangement will meet the approval of our readers. One main object we accomplish by hybernating is, we secure a vast amount of valuable time, time which is actually necessary to enable us to do justice to the forthcoming 'Annual for 1857,' and to enable us to attend to the claims which the subscribers to the 'Natural History of the Tincina' have upon us.

'The Substitute,' though brought out under our fatherly eye, and though it will often contain scraps from our pen, will not be that burden to us the 'Intelligencer' has been, as we can get the drudgery of the work in it done by deputy.

Editors of papers like some holidays as well as lawyers, Members of Parliament and school-boys: we are looking

forward to a little recreation with as much glee as any of our most juvenile readers could do.

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THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Those who want to receive it *early* have it sent by post. All for this season, after this date, will be forwarded weekly on publication, on receipt of 9d. in postage stamps.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STANTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

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Mr. STANTON will not be at "home" on Wednesday, the 10th inst. In future Mr. STANTON will only be at "home" the first Wednesday in each month.

On Wednesday, the 10th inst., Mr. STANTON will proceed on a collecting expedition up Burnt-Ash Lane: he will be at the finger-post where the lane forks at 6.30 p. m. Entomologists from London who may wish to join him there should leave by the 5.30 train for Blackheath, proceed thence to the Tiger's Head, opposite to which runs the rural lane of Burnt-Ash: the finger-post is more than a quarter of a mile up the lane. Ineptients who are

too shy or too afraid of intruding to come to Mountsfield may perhaps pluck up courage enough to meet one in a lane. Ineptients are requested not to come unprovided with nets: and considering how soon it grows dark now, those will show their wisdom who bring lanterns.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.*

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*Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.*

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*Those who wish to complete their series of the 'INTELLIGENCER' should do so before the end of September, as the numbers will not be sold separately after the close of next month.*

*Price of No. 1 is Twopence: all the other numbers may still be had at one penny each.*

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FREY'S TINEEN UND PTEROPHORENDER SCHWEIZ.—We have copies on sale 7s. 6d. each; post free 7s. 10d.

J. R., MYDDELTON SQUARE.—Your suggestion is good, and shall have attention.

S. B.—Female moths almost invariably *lay* their eggs. Whether the eggs are fertile must depend upon the impregnation of the ♀ having taken place.

H. W. B.—Before announcing your *Bicuspis* larva we should be glad to hear you are *well acquainted* with the larvæ of *Bifida* and *Furecula*, and that you know it is neither of them. You are sure it is not a lobster? Your bee is *Anthophora retusa*; your fly *Volucella pellucens*.

A. S., RUGBY.—You must breed *Psi* and *Tridens* if you want to separate them: the perfect insects resemble the two pups of which Sambo said—

“Cæsar and Pompey berry much like;  
‘Specially Pompey.’”

Δ.—Read and you will know: our object is not to save incipients the trouble of reading.

ERRATUM.—In last weeks ‘Intelligencer,’ p. 174, left-hand column, line 30, for “Kingford” read “Fringford.”

### COMMUNICATIONS.

*Erebia Cassiope*.—Mr. Young is over-run with applications for this insect: he only took two dozen, and half of them were wasted, and now letters come pouring in to him by the dozen, asking for it. As he cannot possibly supply a fourth part of those who have written for it, it is to be hoped that those who do not get the insect will wait quietly till next summer.—H. T. STAINTON; August 28, 1856.

*Orgyia gonostigma* and *Retinia sylvestrana*.—I have now disposed of all I have in duplicate. The applications are rather too numerous for all to be answered.—F. O. STANDISH, 2, Alfred Cottages, Warner Road, Camberwell; August 27, 1856.

*To my Unknown Correspondent*.—If my correspondent from Rotherham will again write, and let me have his name and address, I will try to let him have what he wants. I could not decipher his letter, especially the name and address. I must also apologise to my other correspondents for delay in answering their letters; but my absence from home, and also want of boxes to send the insects in, have caused me to be neglectful of some, but I will reply to all in turn.—A. F. SEALY, 20, Trumpington Street, Cambridge; August 27, 1856.

*Amphipyra pyramidea* (LEP.)—During

the last week I have taken several specimens of *Pyramidea* at sugar, which I shall be glad to exchange with collectors in want of that insect for *Nemobius Lucina* or *Pamphila Comma*.—E. LETHBRIDGE, 40, Old Town Street, Plymouth; August 27, 1856.

*Duplicate Lepidoptera*.—I have a few spare specimens of

Arge Galathea,  
Polyommatus Argiolus, and  
Chærocampa Elpenor.

If any of your readers wish for the above I shall be happy to supply them.—C. B. HODGSON, Hockley Hill, Birmingham; August 26, 1856.

*Lepidoptera in Sherwood Forest*.—August 21st, Thursday, I took *Thecla Quereus* in good condition; two *Psilura Monaeha* sitting on oaks; a larva of *Stauropus Fagi* crawling up an oak. *Eupheria fulvago* was scarce at sugar. Saturday 23rd, *Fulvago* rather more plentiful. *Aplecta occulta* and *Cerigo cytherea*, one specimen of each at sugar. I also took *Segetia xanthographa*, ♀, and *Eupheria trapezina*, ♂, in copula. Sunday 24th, *Xanthographa* laid her eggs: will the larvæ follow the habits of their paternity or maternity? Tuesday 26th, *Fulvago* rather more abundant, but seldom taken after the first time round. *Noctua Hebraica* appeared. I counted twenty-four *Pyramidea* on one magnificent oak. Took a larva of *Aeronyeta leporina* on a young man's back. Wednesday 27th, returned home, taking, en route, a larva of *Chærocampa Elpenor* on willow-herb, nearly full fed.—H. ADAIR PICKARD, Hooton Roberts, Rotherham; August 28, 1856.

*Grapta C-Album*.—In Shropshire I had many opportunities of observing this insect. In early spring it emerges from its winter retreats, and delights in lanes and bare spots at the bottom of deep woody dingles and ravines, where the sun shines warm and no wind can come; there it sails round about with an ease

and grace unequalled, in my opinion, by any other of the *Vanessæ*, and alighting every now and then on a dead oak leaf or a bare spot of ground. This is the best time for catching it, as in the autumn it flies over hills, or anywhere, and is rather shy. I have captured five specimens, and seen others in two or three hours in a lane between woody hills, and used to find it regularly at the bottom of dingles. There are two broods of *G. C-Album* in the year; one about July, which is a very bright brown approaching to tawny; the other at the end of September and in October, which appears again in spring, is smaller, much darker, and with the scolloped indentations deeper.—C. G. BARRETT, 37, *Park Street, Mile End*; August 10, 1856.

*Grapta C-Album*.—I can help any one that wants it to this species. For the last three or four years it had not occurred: this year I took it by the score.—WILLIAM THOMAS, *Park Gate, Rotherham*; September 1, 1856.

*Lost, an Entomologist's Address*.—An entomologist, at Sheffield, kindly sent me larvæ of *Hadena rectilinea*: his letter is mislaid. If he will forward me his address I shall feel particularly obliged.—C. J. FOX, *Fordwich House, Fordwich, Kent*; August 31, 1856.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—I have this week taken eighteen larvæ of this insect, most of them full grown: one I measured was 5 inches long and 2½ inches in girth.—IBID.

*Acherontia Atropos*.—I have obtained two more full-fed larvæ of this insect from the potatoe-fields here.—R. H. FREMLIN, *Wateringbury*; August 30, 1856.

*Acronycta Alni*.—I have captured here in our school-close, within the last three days, two larvæ of *A. Alni*. I found them at the roots of some tall elms. I am continuing to search diligently, and hope to find more soon.—A. SIDGWICK, *Rugby*; September 1, 1856.

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides*.—It is well known that great confusion has existed with respect to the larvæ of these two species, many authors having reversed them. The larvæ of *Dictæa* I have seen have always been greenish white; yet I have been well assured that the colour varies, and that brown larvæ of this species are sometimes met with. This, however, Professor Zeller denies emphatically, maintaining that the brown larvæ must have been *Dictæoides*. The larva of this last-named species should, according to Professor Zeller, have the anal plate raised and studded with small warts, a peculiarity similar, I presume, to that which distinguishes the larva of *Smerinthus Tiliæ* from those of *Populi* and *Ocellatus*. I shall be very glad of any practical information which those who are acquainted with these two larvæ can send me.—H. T. STAINTON; September 1, 1856.

*The Species of Anthroccera*.—Without intending the slightest disrespect to authors who have described the several British species of *Anthroccera*, I may truly state that I do not understand them: the reader may construe the word "them" just as he pleases—to mean authors or species. Will entomologists oblige me with specimens of larvæ, pupæ, cocoons, and perfect insects, together with memoranda of dates and food-plants? I should like to try my hand at making the species more intelligible. All contributors of information shall receive a copy of anything I am able to concoct on the subject.—EDWARD NEWMAN; September 1, 1856.

N.B.—The infant larvæ of the genus are now feeding.—H. T. S.

*Larva on Bidens ceruua wanted*.—I have long been impressed with the idea that a *Gelechia* larva feeds on the seeds of this plant, and wish to direct the attention of such of my readers as may be in the habit of collecting among this plant, which I fancy will be the ease with those

who collect the "Wainseots," that it would be very desirable to ascertain whether the *Bidens* does produce *Gelechia lucidella*. The plant should be now just coming into flower; and in the course of the next six weeks the season for this larva will be come and gone. Make haste, therefore, while the sun shines.—H. T. STAINTON; *August 30, 1856.*

*Lepidoptera at Cambridge.*—During the summer we have taken or bred the following:—

Papilio Machaon,  
 Apatura Iris,  
 Thecla Quereus,  
 Polyommatus Corydon,  
 Chæroecampa Elpenor,  
 „ Poreellus,  
 Sphecia Apiformis,  
 Callimorpha Dominula,  
 Lælia cænosa,  
 Dasychira faseolina,  
 Gastropacha quereifolia,  
 Cerura fureula,  
 Ptilodontis palpina,  
 Acronycta strigosa,  
 „ Ligustri,  
 Simyra venosa,  
 Xylophasia sublustris,  
 Polia serena,  
 Hadenæ suasa,  
 „ Atriplicis.

During the last fortnight we have taken the larvæ of

Smerinthus ocellatus,  
 Sphinx Ligustri,  
 Deilephila Galii at Gogmagog Hills,  
 Chæroecampa Elpenor,  
 „ Poreellus,  
 Macroglossa Stellatarum.

—WILLIAM FARREN, JUN., *King's Old Gateway*; JOHN MANNING, *Market Hill, Cambridge*; *August 24, 1856.*

*Geodephaga* are now more abundant than they were in the heat of summer. Ditches, banks of streams and ponds, and under elods and stones, are now especially favourable localities. Tourists in the Highlands of Scotland and Wales should keep their eyes open, and leave not a stone unturned. Just see how repeatedly Mr. Dawson refers to the mountains as the localities of species. Water-beetles have also a strong claim upon the visitors to the North: there are several species there that are never seen alive in the South (see the Rev. H. Clark's papers in the 'Zoologist') In other places, too, this is a good season for *Hydrade-phaga*. Won't any body go to Southend and get *Cybister Ræselii*, a beetle that is scarcely known among us, except by repute? Carrion beetles, those riotous eaters of flesh, are now common; and when they have reduced their victims to skin and bone another set of epicures, *Neerobia*, *Nitidula*, *Dermestes*, &c., have a reversionary interest therein. In all stages of the decay of animal bodies there are hosts of *Braehelytra* to be found; and they also love putrescent *Fungi*. These latter growths harbour many other kinds of beetles; and even when they are dry and powdery they have many Coleopterous tenants, some of which are rare and local. Dung-beetles still muster in considerable numbers in their peculiar habitat, and may at times be seen flying. If you station yourself, on a calm, warm evening, in the vicinity of any manure-heap, you may take lots of the smaller species on the wing, besides many other beetles which are not coprophagous, and which might cost you many an hour to look for in their hiding-places.—J. W. DOUGLAS; *August 27, 1856.*

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MEMORABILIA FOR SEPTEMBER.

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COLEOPTERA.—By J. W. Douglas.—

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COLEOPTERA.—By T. V. Wollaston.  
 —The Autumnal "Crop."—Those "beetle-hunters" who have remained *in statu quieto* during the hot season (for

August is an unprofitable month) may begin now to bestir themselves, and repair their nets for the chase. The "1st of September," it is true, has no special claims for the entomologist as it has for the sportsman; yet it is assuredly the "harbinger of better things to come,"—for the Coleoptera, awakening as it were from their summer's sleep, commence now to reappear, and don their autumnal garb with renewed strength. The hibernation of insects we are all familiar with: but does it ever occur to us that they may sometimes *æstivate*? It is certain, however, that extraordinary heat does practically produce *æstivation* (if we may so express it) in hosts of Coleoptera; and that species, which during the blaze of an August sun occur but sparingly *in aperto*, emerge by thousands from their hiding-places so soon as the atmosphere becomes partially tempered by the first "rudiments" of frost. Now is the time for the mountains, which may be said to attain their maximum towards the end of September: the under sides of stones on the extreme summits will be frequently found (even more than on the grassy declivities) to teem with life. In a few weeks, also, the coast will be again productive, affording much the same species as it did in early spring. The sand-hills of Deal may be cited as peculiarly prolific about the beginning of October; and if at that time the moss and lichen be gathered from the slopes and shaken into a bag, *Panagæus 4-pustulatus*, *Awara curta*, *Harpalus serripes* and *attenuatus*, *Masoreus Wetterhallii*, and numerous others of the "Carabæe," are almost certain to be the result; whilst the great *Zabrus gibbus* will, if searched for, be assuredly forthcoming in the corn-fields hard by, and may be often captured whilst running across the open pathways and roads. Saline spots are perhaps more productive somewhat earlier in the season than now; nevertheless, "better late than never,"

should be the motto of the Coleopterist; and those of our crew who have not been able to command sufficient leisure to sally forth under a "noonday sun" may do much even yet, though Phæbus be "waxing low," and we are verging, at railroad pace, towards the "evening of the year." Intense heat and a clear sky are the conditions which call forth our insect *Troglodytes* from their retreats; and it is almost useless, therefore, in cold and dull weather to search for them; but when "the sun shines bright" [we will not add the remainder—"and the stars give light,"] alluvial and clayey districts adjoining the sea may be explored with advantage, and the Salterns will be found "rich with living gems." The Isle of Sheppy is convenient of access for the London collectors; and the treasures of those loamy flats, who can recount them! *Anthici*, *Pogoni*, and *Bembidia*, in multitudes are here; and two of our greatest British rarities, the *Polistichus fasciolatus* and *Stenolophus elegans*, are there also. The brackish waters of the ditches and pools, too, speak to us of Paradise; for the very names of *Macrolepa Equiseti* and *Berosus spinuosus* "eurdle the blood" of a Coleopterist. But we must desist; for time and space are alike limited: and, when once prescribed, neither one nor the other of them will alter for any man.—T. V. WOLLASTON; August 28, 1856.

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#### THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Monday, September 1, 1856. W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

DEATH OF MR. YARRELL.—The President informed the meeting that he had, with much regret, received intelligence of the death of Mr. Yarrell, who had for so many years been the Treasurer of the



Entomological Society. He felt that this was a great loss to the Natural History of this country.

RARE LEPIDOPTERA.—Mr. Shepherd exhibited specimens of *Spilodes Silacalis* and *Laphygma exigua*, taken by Mr. A. Wallace in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Stevens observed he had lately seen a fine specimen of the last-named insect, taken by Mr. H. Cooke. (See 'Intelligencer,' p. 173.)

Mr. Douglas exhibited a specimen of *Depressaria Libanotidella*, taken by Mr. Turner at Haven, in Sussex.

Mr. Dutton exhibited some insects taken a month ago in the Isle of Wight, and amongst them was a specimen of *Heliopsis armigera*.

RARE COLEOPTERA.—Mr. Janson exhibited the following rarities:—*Dinarda Macrkeli*, *Dendrophilus pygmaeus*, *Dorcatoma rubens*, and *Criophilus binodulus*; the last-named he had obtained from bark of aspen.

MADEIRAN INSECTS.—Mr. Stevens exhibited some specimens he had lately bred from pupæ imported from Madeira. Mr. Hunter suggested that it was not improbable that as the *Eriopus Latreillei* had been found *outside* his breeding-cage, that he had no recollection of having found any such larva as that of *Latreillei*, that Mr. Stevens had been importing ferns from Madeira which were in the same house with his (Mr. Hunter's) breeding-cage, it might after all be no new *British* Noctua.

This suggestion was thought a very probable solution of a difficulty.

COCCUS ON LUZULA.—Mr. Douglas exhibited some white woolly-like substances, the covering of a *Coccus*, found on *Luzula* by Mr. Newman at Darenth Wood.

A paper by Mr. Bates was then read: 'Description of a New Species of the

*Geodephaga Myrmicella Lacordairei*,' collected by his brother at Ega, on the Upper Amazons.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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#### BE SURE AND RETURN YOUR CORRESPONDENT'S BOXES.

We are requested to caution collectors not to keep the boxes sent them by post. One party complains that some of his have been kept for six weeks; many a month. This ought not to be. We give this advice quite disinterestedly, because we are ourselves very bad hands at returning boxes: our readers, however, should *do as we say, not as we do*. We knew a gentleman who used to write on each of his boxes, "This box was stolen from J. C. Dale, Esq." And people were then *ashamed* to keep them.

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#### EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCE OF THE STUDY OF ENTOMOLOGY.

I am in a sad fix about the moths. The Greek plays are child's play in comparison; but I suppose patience and perseverance will succeed.

I have about four hundred specimens; but as to naming them, that is quite out of the question. However, I have bungled out a few, such as the Hawks, Tigers, Magpies, Footmen, &c., &c.; but when I shall arrange what I have caught is more than I can imagine. I looked into the Linnæan arrangement; I might as well have looked into Pliny, or tried to study Botany in the Georgics. However, there is comfort in all things, if we know how to extract it: the study of these moths is not so dull and dry in one's old age as learning the Greek alphabet like the stern Cato did. I never was more amused in my life, or more humbled at my own ignorance.

These four hundred moths have done me more good than all the sermons I ever heard or (of which I am quite sure) wrote; so I feel anxious about the Intelligeneer's continuation, if suitable to your own plans.

I probably mistake one point, its purpose of giving instruction to "an incipient" of my alphabetic degree; yet I shall jog on, and hope to get information one way or other. I would soon have plenty of books if I had plenty of money. But I own I was tempted to begin an otherwise hopeless task by your valuable undertaking. You will have the consolation of knowing that many, like myself, will receive the 'British Butterflies and Moths' as a great boon.—A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN; *August 26, 1856.*

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, September 6, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 24.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## WHO BIDS FOR THE BUGS?

IN a little work which emanated from the press this summer there occurred the following sentence:—"Surely in this year 1856 it is quite time that some one should devote his energies and attention to our British bugs." Few reviewers have failed to quote this sentence, and it has thus had a much more widely-spread circulation than it had anticipated; but still it does not appear to have met the eye of "the coming man," and we are therefore compelled to put the enquiry, "Who bids for the bugs?"

Mr. Dallas is a forsworn wretch, and has forsaken his first love. Who will take compassion on the distressed damsel *Hemiptera*?

"The numerous, active, and often gaily-coloured field-bugs, are continually met with, and there is probably not an entomologist in the country who, in the month of June, does not daily turn them out of his net by the score. But who pays attention to them?"

We await an answer from our readers.

An enquiry was made through our columns some time ago for an individual who would receive Dipterous larvæ, and at once a gentleman came forward willing to be pelted through the post with maggots.

We trust the present enquiry will not prove less effectual in securing a veritable bug-hunter: for be it known that a large mass of our readers who are commonly termed bug-hunters, are apparently so called because they don't hunt bugs "Lucus a non lueendo," just as many insects are named after plants on which they don't feed, as though to puzzle those who go in to their entomological examinations.

The bugs in their flight are often difficult to distinguish from small moths; and some one who finds he has not a talent for setting out moths might wisely turn his attention to the more easily preserved order. Many of them are met with by the Micro-Lepidopterist who seeks in a rolled leaf, or in a mine, for some favourite larvæ,

"But when he gets there  
The cupboard is bare,"

for a field-bug has been there before him, and perhaps the gluttonous beast still remains ensconced in the habitation of the victim it has slain.

Do particular bugs eat particular species of caterpillars? if so the sight of such *Hemipterous* insects might as plainly indicate the occurrence of certain *Lepidoptera* as could be done by some of the *Hymenoptera*, of which order more are probably reared in a season by Lepidopterists than by professed Hymenopterists.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

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All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, *Mouutsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.*

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Mr. STAINTON will not be "at home" till Wednesday, October 1st. In future he will only be "at home" the first Wednesday in each month.

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#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

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Pressure of matter compels us to hold over several interesting communications.

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Those who wish to complete their series of the 'INTELLIGENCER' should do so before the end of September, as the numbers will not be sold separately after the close of next month.

Price of Nos. 1 and 2 is twopence

each: all the remaining numbers may still be had at one penny each.

No. 26 will be the last number of the 'Intelligencer' this year. No. 27 will be published on Saturday, April 4, 1857, price ONE PENNY.

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J. J.—You may call the Emperor *Carpini* or *Pavonia-minor*, whichever you please: both are names given to it and to nothing else, so that there can be no confusion. We dare say some call you "James" and some call you "Jim," and you would answer to either name.

S. B.—Few would adopt a plan of keeping their stores of duplicates in a relaxed state. Perhaps your friend was a bad packer.

R. W.—The larva of *Ilicifolia* may be quite as variable as that of *Quercifolia*: both are troublesome enough to describe.

E. G. C.—Your caterpillar with blacking-brushes along its back, which produced a wingless female, is *Orgyia antiqua* (the Vapourer). The female almost invariably lays her eggs on the cocoon: see 'World of Insects,' p. 45.

A. G. M.—There is no misprint, and the matter needs no explanation: read the sentence again — before dinner.

H. ARIS.—Your larva is the Common Dagger (*Acronyeta Psi*); it will eat any tree or shrub, elm, lime, sloe, &c.

ERRATUM.—In last week's 'Intelligencer,' p. 180, first column, line 31, for "C. J. FOX" read "CAPT. C. J. COX, Q. G." We are sorry that the compositor should thus have parodied *Box and Cox*: we suppose it was the alliteration of *Fordwich House, Fordwich*, that caused it.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Sphinx Convolvuli*.—A fine specimen of this insect was brought me last

Tuesday night (Sept. 2nd) by a labouring man, who found it on palings at Peckham.—G. SIGGS, 1, *Bedford Street, Walworth*; *September 9, 1856.*

*Sphinx Convolvuli.*—On Saturday evening I took a beautiful specimen of this species hovering over Petunias, and unfortunately missed another, the ring of my net striking it away. Collectors who are in want of the species would do well to look over Petunias, &c., in the dusk of evening, as it may occur pretty generally this season.—GEORGE HARDING, JUNR., *Stapleton, Bristol*; *September 9, 1856.*

*Plutella annulatella* (LEP.).—This has occurred abundantly; and such entomologists as want it, and whom I have not already supplied, had better let me know before my stock is exhausted.—GEORGE WAILES, *Newcastle-on-Tyne*; *September 6, 1856.*

*Larvæ near Rotherham.*—During the past week I have taken two fine larvæ of *Acronycta Alni*, and a young friend of mine has taken one *Alni* and two *Leiocampa Dictæoides*, and a few *Acronycta Leporina*.—WILLIAM THOMAS, *Park Gate, Rotherham*; *September 9, 1856.*

*Phibalapteryx Gemmaria.*—On the 30th August I took at light, in the Isle of Wight, a ♀ specimen of this insect, (*Angustaria*, Westwood). The lady having deposited some eggs, information as to the food-plant and habits of the larvæ is requested. Also respecting the larva of *Laphygma exigua*: does it hibernate? is there difficulty in the spring in rearing it? and what is the proper food in the early spring months? Information of these points will be thankfully received by A. WALLACE, 5, *Green Terrace, Clerkenwell*; *September 9, 1856.*

*Last Captures near Deal.*—A few specimens of *Colias Edusa* are now making their appearance along the coast, but are all males. Those who want this insect, and can pay a visit there now, will be in good time for the females, which are

always rarer than their consorts. Of late sugar has not been of much use. My last night I took

*Agrotis Tritieii*,

„ *valligera*, and

*Lupernia cespitis*.

No larvæ of *Galii* have been taken this season, though it has been looked after by myself and others. In an out-house I found a number of *Tinea pellionella* and *Ægoconia quadripuncta*; no dwelling-house near it by a mile. Among the sand-hills I found that good beetle *Helops pallens* the very day I left.—H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shore-ditch*; *September 3, 1856.*

*No Larvæ of Ilicifolia likely to be found at Rugeley Market.*—The bilberry gatherers will have a poor chance of finding the larvæ of *Gastropacha Ilicifolia* on Cannock Chase, as the Chase-keeper hunts the people from the bilberries which are preserved for the game, and that so strictly that every one going for them is counted a trespasser, so that I think the larvæ will not be seen in Rugeley Market.—R. WEAVER, 25, *Per-shore Street, Birmingham*; *September 2, 1856.*

*Coleophora Vibicella.*—I was at Trench Wood yesterday: I saw only one empty case of this species.—IBID.

*Lasiocampa Callunæ.*—I am sorry to see that you do not admit this as a species in the 'Manual': it is truly distinct from *Quercus*. The French naturalists are satisfied on the point, and so are many English entomologists. I can point out on the northern specimens what no one can point out on the southern *Quercus*. But perhaps I have no right to busy myself with species, but ought to leave that alone for others?—IBID.

*No Bath White after all.*—I find I was in error in recording the capture of *Daphidice* in Essex, but being young in the study of entomology, and finding nothing with which it corresponded, led

me to the belief it was that insect. I am, however, indebted to the kindness of Mr. Shepherd, who called upon me with four specimens of *Daphidiee*, convincing me at once that those I had taken were only females of *Cardamines*. I trust my statement did not give unnecessary trouble to others in searching for the species in the locality named.—H. W. KILLINGBACK; *September 2, 1856.*

*Lasiocampa Rubi* and *Saturnia Pavonia-Minor*.—Please inform me what peculiar care or treatment the larvæ of *Lasiocampa Rubi* require. [They require to be kept through the winter out of doors in a cage exposed to the weather.] I have some of them and some of the larvæ and pupæ of *Saturnia Pavonia-minor* to spare; and as my collection is nought I should be much obliged to anybody for anything instead of them.—REV., THE INCUMBENT, *Hornby, Lancashire; September 2, 1856.*

*Coleophora flavimaculella* (LEP.).—I have bred many species during the last month from seeds of *Angelica sylvestris* collected last October.—R. S. EDLESTON, *Bowden, Cheshire; September 2, 1856.*

*Gelechia Gemmella* (LEP.).—Several specimens of this pretty and most variable species resting on the trunks of oaks; occasionally on the leaves and branches: along with them occurred a few of *Psorieoptera gibbosella*.—IBID.

*Is any Species of Coleophora double-brooded?*—Mr. Stainton, in his "Glance at the Present State of our Knowledge of the *Coleophora*," in the 'Zoologist,' page 4032, in remarking on the statement of of Herr Mann in the *Linn. Ent. iv. 272*, on the larvæ of *C. Onobrychiella*, that "this species occurs in June and September near Vienna, in dry places where its food-plant, *Onobrychis*, grows: several years back they were bred very plentifully," says, "It seems impossible to imagine any species of *Coleophora* double-brooded, so that this species must keep out for a very long time, or the 'June

and September' must apply to two different species." Now to the point: *C. discordella* appears the end of June and beginning of July, the larvæ having commenced feeding the September and October previous, and, becoming full-fed about the succeeding May, appears the following June in the perfect state. I have now in my breeding-glass six larvæ of *C. discordella*, two of which were taken on Salisbury Crags, nearly full-fed, on the 17th of August, and spun up about the end of the following week. On the Sunday following (August 24th), I took five more larvæ of the same species on Arthur's Seat, and they are now ready for their final change. Now can it be supposed that there are perfect insects in June, 1856, and feeding larvæ the end of August, 1856, of the brood of larvæ hatched September, 1855? or are the larvæ taken nearly fed up in August the produce of the eggs laid by the early specimens of the June insects, which will produce their imago in September? while the eggs laid by those specimens of the June brood, which were developed later, produce larvæ which feed in the following autumn in company with the larvæ hatched from the eggs of those specimens which have been developed in September from the early laid eggs of the early developed specimens of the June brood, thus accounting for the fact of finding *Coleophora* larvæ in different stages of growth, some being nearly full-fed, and others half-fed and quite infantine in their dimensions, at one and the same time. Of course I have assumed that the larvæ I now have will produce perfect insects this month, from the period of its remaining in the pupa state being, in the first brood, about a month; so that I consider *C. discordella* double-brooded, although the second bears no proportion in number to the first. I found a number of dry empty cases attached to the stones near which the food-plant grew.—R. SHIELD, 9, *Shrub Place,*

*Leith Walk, Edinburgh; September 2, 1856.*

[We are surprised to hear of *discordella* being already fed up. But, 1°, it is a fact that most *Coleophora* continue to come out for a long time; we have ourselves bred some through a period of six weeks: 2°, the eggs laid by the first developed specimens produce larvæ which become sooner full-fed than the offspring of the later developed specimens: 3°, some of these early larvæ produce perfect insects prematurely, but we have yet to learn that such are fertile and themselves lay eggs. There is but one brood, as we interpret the significance of that much disputed term, though some may attain their last stage eight months before the others.]

*Asellus*.—You have concluded *Asellus*, in 'Manual,' No. 7, without mention of Marlow!!! Would it interfere with your plan to begin the next number with, "Two specimens have occurred lately in the beech woods near Marlow, at the end of June and beginning of July." *Asellus* is an interesting species, and as the two specimens above named occurred casually (one on a boy's hat!), and on different sides of the river (one in Bisham Woods, and the other on Marlow Common, or two miles apart), and taken, one by Mr. Atkinson and the other by myself, I do not like to read that "*Asellus* seems almost confined to the New Forest." If looked for here it certainly would be found.—BERNARD SMITH, *Marlow; August 30, 1856.*

[As we cannot very well put Mr. Smith's note in the 'Manual,' No. 8, which has long ago been all printed, we give it the next widest circulation by inserting it here.]

*A New Want.*—Referring to your leader in No. 20 of the 'Intelligencer,' allow me to ask you why we contract our studies to British insects only? Is it not for want of a Manual of European Lepidoptera? Of course no descriptions

would be required of British species; a simple reference to the 'Manual' you are now obliging us with being sufficient. But who is to do it? You, Mr. Editor, seem to have plenty of "irons in the fire," but you know probably those who are willing and capable: they would be abundantly thanked, I am sure.—FRED. KENDERDINE; *Manchester, September 1, 1856.*

[Our correspondent has a very sanguine idea of the literary-disposed entomologists, if he supposes a Manual of European Lepidoptera could be easily forthcoming. We have lately been moving heaven and earth to get a Manual of British Beetles, but the Coleopterists seem so deficient in energy that, great as they admit the desirableness of such a work, no one has pluck enough to undertake it.]

*Are they for Sale or Exchange, or how?*—Might I suggest to your numerous correspondents who send word that they have captured certain insects, and that they will be glad to hear from any one wanting them, that they should state whether they will sell or exchange, for at present it is impossible to know.—G. RUDSTON READ, *Rectory, Sutton-on-Derwent, York; September 1, 1856.*

[We are not aware of a single correspondent mentioning he had insects to spare who had any notion of selling them, and we fancy very few have conceived the idea of making a regular exchange. Most persons, like Mr. Greene, "expect no return; the offer is principally addressed to beginners, who would not be able to send anything they wanted" (see p. 173): though of course we perfectly understand the feeling which would induce even an incipient to make the best return he could for anything he received. Selfishness and greediness in such matters are, judging from our experience, not common faults.]

*A Mechanical Spider.*—A spider made its web in my garden between the porch

of my study and a fig tree, fastening its lines to both, the wind blowing N.E. and waving the branch so as to keep the web rising and falling. I did not disturb the little weaver; but what was my surprise on going a few hours after to find that he had dropped a line to the ground and fastened it to a pebble about half an ounce in weight. This acted as a kind of counterpoise, rising from the ground when a strong gust of wind came, and swinging like a pendulum, so that the web was comparatively stationary, and left the spider more at liberty to strengthen his outworks, which he did very sedulously and adroitly. Since this I have found another of the same kind; but in this instance the stone was much smaller, and had an entirely pendulous motion.—AN ACADEMICIAN; *August 25, 1856.*

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR SEPTEMBER.

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COLEOPTERA.—*By T. V. Wollaston.*  
 —The land, far more richly tenanted as it is for the Coleopterist, is, nevertheless, scarcely more *interesting*, as regards its insect population, than the waters; and yet how few of our collectors devote much time to the investigation of the *Hydrocantharide*. We have our Clarks and Powers, it is true, to fathom the ponds and roadside puddles around our modern Babylon, and to dive with anxious net into the deep black ditches of the Huntingdonshire fens; but then, unfortunately, they are not numerous: whilst even *they* do not often (or rather cannot, from the want of leisure) strike towards the far north, or ascend the mountain tracts, into the “unfished” recesses of our island group. There are some few others, again, who work well their own immediate localities, and much praise is due to them for their zeal; still, however, we want more labourers

yet, who will be willing for a time to devote their exclusive energies to this peculiar field of research before we can hope to gain a thorough knowledge of our Hydradephagous fauna. Already has the long lost *Hydroporus Sealesianus* been “turned up” in the vicinity of York, whilst the immortal Power has demonstrated, with a master’s discrimination, that the *Haliplus fluvialis*, which was supposed to be well-nigh unique, is as common as its (nearly related) generic comrades, *its diagnostic characters having been hitherto but imperfectly understood.* Hence, at once arises the necessity of studying, *en masse*, the distinguishing features of some of our closely allied forms: and now, above all others, is the season for doing so. September is *par excellence* the month for water-beetles, and we would gladly, therefore, inoculate some of our incipient Coleopterists with the desire to add to our knowledge by throwing their attention, be it but for a few passing weeks, into the rivers and pools. The *Hydroporus opatrinus* and *Cybister Reselii* (reputed as British) have yet, *inter alia*, to be found; whilst the cosmopolitan *Nogrus griseus* may be expected to occur, for there are already “loomings” of it in Devonshire. Oh! that a few aquatico-Linnæus’s would arise and fill up some of those numerous gaps which have remained as heir-looms to our English cabinets since the days of Griesbach and Leach.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

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##### INDIAN MICRO-LEPIDOPTERA.

I am quite aware of the importance of sending a series of specimens for description, but collecting and setting takes so much time that it is not always in my power at present to preserve duplicates of even large insects, and with the small things the trouble is many-fold greater.



The smaller TINEINA are especially difficult to manage: one's fingers and everything else are sticky with damp and heat, and one can hardly live, except under a punkah; you can imagine, therefore, the difficulty of pinning creatures of the size of *Nepticulæ*, and will not be surprised to hear that I have failed entirely in pinning two small species of *Phyllocnistis*, which I reared, and several other things of the like size. The Indian TINEINA are certainly much smaller on the average than those of Europe, especially the miners, which is singular, considering the luxuriance of vegetation, and in marked contrast with the large size of the predominant diurnal LEPIDOPTERA. However, I have got together some fifty additional species, which you shall have some day; but many of them being single specimens, or at most pairs, I think it will be better for me to get more examples, if possible, before parting with those. A good many have been bred, and I have described and made pencil drawings of the larvæ of sixteen of these, which, though hurriedly done and rather rough, are tolerably exact, and will, I think, be of use: I send one as a specimen. Many of these TINEINA will not be found referable, I think, to any existing genera, but I have several *Tineæ*, including *T. Tapetzella*, a very pretty *Adela* near *De Geerella*, one or two *Depressariæ*, several *Graciliaria*? or *Ornix*?, two *Elachista*? mining in bamboo, three *Lithocolletis* (two bred) and two *Cemiostoma*? (one bred), mining in *Cæsalpinia paniculata*; I have also several *Pterophori*. I shall be very glad to have the result of your investigation of the things already sent to you, it will be of great assistance to me; and if you will let me know what group you are engaged upon for your next volume of the 'TINEINA,' I will try especially to work out the history of anything here which appears to belong to it. Of my three new *Lithocolletes*, two are like *L. Bauhinia* of the *Trifasciella*

group; the other belongs, I think, to the *Faginella* group; it mines the under side of the leaves of *Gardenia latifolia*, and quits the mine to assume the pupa state: this species seems particularly liable to the attacks of parasitical Ichneumons; out of a considerable number of larvæ I have only reared two moths. The larvæ of No. 3, in the first box sent to you [*Coriscium orientale*], have again eluded my search, at least so far as ascertaining their manner of feeding. I found two bushes of *Bauhinia alba* literally covered with their conspicuous white cocoons, occupying depressions on the upper surface of the leaf. Almost every leaf had more than three, and some of these still contained the larvæ, so that I was able to describe and draw them, but I could find no indications of their manner of feeding; I think I may safely say they do not eat the leaves: I have four or five species of this genus, some of them apparently miners; they must be *Graciliaria*, I think, or *Ornix*, from their general appearance and posture in repose, or, if not, something near those genera. All from very similar cocoons in similar positions.—W. S. ATKINSON; *La Martinière, Calcutta, July 11, 1856.*

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#### SUGGESTIONS FOR 'THE SUBSTITUTE.'

Surely there is matter sufficient in Entomology to keep up a little publication like this: it ought to be the aim of all our advanced Entomologists to endeavour to raise the standard of our Science. Every week some column might be well devoted to insect physiology. Many are acquainted with the larvæ of certain local insects, their time of appearance, their food, their form and colour; during the collecting season we are all too busy to think of writing from our notes, when every hour is too precious to be lost sight of in penning down fresh matter; but when leisure is afforded us, I am sure all who possess information would most

willingly contribute to support a weekly periodical.

Again, some very valuable information may be given to beginners in the structure of insects and their metamorphoses: true this has all, more or less, been published, but in forms so expensive as to be beyond the limits of nine-tenths of our entomologists, but coming in the form of a weekly lecture the outlay is a mere nothing, and the true study of Entomology is immensely served. Converse but a minute or two with the bulk of our humbler brotherhood, and their extraordinary ignorance is quite astounding; in fact, very few of the less advanced know anything about the matter. I have now before me a note from a lady, who enquires if I can explain the extraordinary phenomenon that a beautiful caterpillar she had fed up all of a sudden shrunk up into a mere nothing, and its body became divided into four parts, round and distinct: I was requested to communicate *seriatim* this extraordinary fact to you, as it was principally from your 'Weekly Intelligencer' that she had taken up the Science, and she supposed she had some very marvelous insect, and requested information.—CAPT. C. J. COX, Q. G., *Fordwich House, Fordwich, Kent; August 31, 1856.*

*In the Press,*

## ELEMENTS OF ENTOMOLOGY.

By W. S. DALLAS, F.L.S.

It has been deemed advisable, with the view of securing a large circulation for this Elementary Work, to issue it in Monthly Numbers.

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THE SUBSTITUTE; or, ENTOMOLOGICAL EXCHANGE FACILITATOR, AND ENTOMOLOGIST'S FIRE-SIDE COMPANION.

This will be continued Weekly for Twenty Weeks. Each Number will consist of Twelve Pages, 12mo, and will contain Lists of Duplicates and Desiderata (which will appear in the order of priority in which they reach the Editor) and Notices of Summer Rambles, &c.

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Those who wish to have 'THE SUBSTITUTE' forwarded weekly by post, are requested to forward Five Shillings in postage stamps to the publisher, E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

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# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 25.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1856.

[PRICE 1d.]

## LARVA-HUNTING.

At this season of the year the pursuit of larvæ engages, or ought to engage, the attention of the greater number of our readers.

It is rare sport, hunting for larvæ—far more attractive than deer-stalking, and beats grouse-shooting or pheasant-shooting hollow.

A nice plump larva—never mind of what kind—is something pleasant to look at, whether it be a *Smerinthus* from a willow, an *Endromis* from a birch, or a *Saturnia* from the heather: to say nothing of a Death's Head from a potato-field, or an Elephant from the willow-herb growing in the moist places at Hackney.

Then, when you systematically look for larvæ, you find such lots of queer things—things that you never saw before, and had no idea that you had them in your neighbourhood.

It is much better fun collecting larvæ than collecting insects only in the perfect state; for, in the first place, you have double pleasure—you have first the pleasure of finding the larva, and afterwards the pleasure of breeding the perfect insect: you get two bites of your cherry, and hence a more complete enjoyment of it.

And larva collecting is independent of weather, and now that the weather seems completely broken for a time, it is no small advantage to an entomologist to be able to collect, even though it rains interminably or blows an equinoctial gale; and, as we have elsewhere observed, “only adapt your clothing to the weather, and you may collect larvæ *whenever you choose*,” so don't attempt to excuse your growing idleness, at the close of the season, by saying, “It was so wet, it was no use going out.” “Where there's a will there's a way,” and if you wish to collect insects you can do so; those oak boughs, well thrashed, may produce you a shower-bath, it is true, but they may also produce you some game worth bagging; those sallows which you think not worth going amongst are held in greater esteem by sundry caterpillars; as you might learn if you looked for them.

Many of our rarer species would become common if larvæ were more determinately looked for, and as we know that frequently, at this time of the year, people begin to complain that their game is scarce, and that their sport is well nigh over, we think it advisable to remind them that they may collect insects otherwise than in the perfect state, and that now is the very time for those who have not yet tried their hands at it to commence in good earnest the noble sport of “Larva-hunting.”

It may be as well to remind those who have not seen Mr. Greene's observations in the 'Zoologist' for September, that for some larvæ it is useless to *beat*: the larvæ of *Clostera*, *Ceropacha* (*Cynatophora*) and *Tethea* feed between united leaves, and must therefore be looked for. If two entomologists go in pursuit of larvæ, one with strong arms, the other with sharp eyes, though the former may bring home the greater number, the latter will have got all the best ones.

requested to forward their complaints to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

Those who wish to complete their series of the 'INTELLIGENCER' should do so before the end of September, as the numbers will not be sold separately after the close of this month.

Price of Nos. 1 and 2 is twopence each: all the remaining numbers may still be had at one penny each.

No. 26 will be the last number of the 'Intelligencer' this year. No. 27 will be published on Saturday, April 4, 1857, price ONE PENNY.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE, of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate; and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

RETAIL, of J. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row; James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch. &c. &c. &c.

Cloth Wrappers for binding the 'Intelligencer' may be had of E. Newman, on and after Sept. 27th, price 1s.

R. EDON.—All coloured. Four guineas; the Supplement 12s. 6d. Willis and Sotheran, Strand. See notice of it in 'Ent. Annual,' 1856, p. 163.

J. R. G., BRIGHTON.—Spry's 'British Coleoptera Delineated' (see Ent. An. 1856, p. 164).

T. SMITHSON.—*To destroy Mites*.—Get a mixture of equal parts of oil of thyme, oil of anise and spirit of wine, and with a camel's-hair brush put it on the bodies of the infected insects, and put a drop or two in the corners of your boxes.

F. H. F.—It is not likely to be *Ph. Arundinis*; it might be *Nouagria Typhae*. But what do you mean by *rushes*? Ascertain the botanical name of the plant.

H. W. B.—I believe your insect is *Sirex Gigas*.

J. HEAD.—Collect more *Hyperanthus*, and you will find hardly two are alike:

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,"

and the same may be said of only two or three specimens. You must see a number in order to learn a species. If *Ligustri*

All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, *Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London*, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

MR. STAINTON will not be "at home" till Wednesday, October 1st. In future he will only be "at home" the first Wednesday in each month.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Subscribers who do not receive the 'INTELLIGENCER' in due course, are

larva is full-fed in August, and the perfect insect appears in June, any boy learned in arithmetic should be able to tell you how long it remains in pupa.

DERBY.—An envelope with this post-mark has been received, enclosing twelve postage stamps. Who are they from? and what are they for?

### COMMUNICATIONS.

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides.*—I am surprised that an entomologist of Professor Zeller's experience should not know that the larva of *Leiocampa dictæa* is very frequently brown. For some few years past I have invariably taken the larva of this insect or bred it from the egg, and have found the larvæ to be as often brown as not. I have observed that it generally does not assume the brown colour till the two last moults; till then it is generally pale green. A year or two ago I found about eighty eggs of *L. dictæa* on some small aspens in Derbyshire, from which I reared a number of larvæ. These when full-fed were of various shades of colour, from pale green to dark brown. All the larvæ of *L. dictæoides* that I have taken have been of a most beautiful purplish brown with a bright yellow stripe on each side above the legs. I never heard of any one taking a green larva of *Dictæoides*, nor do I think that it ever varies in colour. I cannot think that any one, after seeing the larvæ of *Dictæoides* and a brown variety of *Dictæa* together, could possibly confuse them afterwards. I have also found that the larva of *Dictæoides* invariably feeds upon birch, and that of *Dictæa* upon various species of poplar.—H. HARPUR CREWE, *Shooter's Hill, Kent; September 9, 1856.*

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides.*—With regard to these larvæ, I can state most positively that I have bred an insect

from a brown larva, which I cannot distinguish from *Dictæa*; it certainly is not *Dictæoides*, as Zeller supposes: the larva of this species does not seem to vary at all; it is extremely glossy, looking as if varnished, brown on the back, with a beautiful purple gloss, and a broad bright yellow stripe on the side, and feeds on birch. The larva of *Dictæa* is usually green, whitish on the back, with a more indistinct yellow stripe on the side—in fact, all I have ever seen have been of this colour: it feeds upon various poplars. Some years since Osborne sent me a lot of larvæ from poplar, which were of an uniform dull brown, without the least trace of a yellow stripe at the sides: this larva is well figured by Clerck in his 'Icones.' They appeared to me to differ a little in form from the green ones, the segments being more indented, but the moths seemed to be merely *Dictæa*. Three or four days since I wrote to Osborne to get me some more, if he could; yesterday I heard from him, and he says, "I used to find the Swallow Prominent caterpillars green about the first fortnight or three weeks, and after that I used to find the brown ones. I used to think they were a different sort, as the green ones were much larger than the brown ones, but I could not see any difference in the moths when they came out. I have not seen any of them for several years, as they stubbed up the poplars upon which I used to find them." Humphrey and Westwood appear to have figured these two varieties? and not to have figured the true larva of *Dictæoides*. You can call Zeller's attention to Clerck's figure.—HENRY DOUBLEDAY, *Epping; September 15, 1856.*

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides.*—As you ask for information respecting the larva of *Dictæa* and *Dictæoides*, perhaps the following may be of some service. I have had many dozen larvæ at different times of *Dictæa*, and all have been, as you remark, greenish white. It is, how-

ever, well known, that many larvæ just previous to entering the pupa state change their colour so much as scarcely to be recognized. This occurs commonly with the larva of *Dictæa*, which, when full-grown, frequently assumes a violet, or violet-brown colour. This, I think, explains the fact, that *brown* larvæ are occasionally met with. No one, who had seen the two larvæ, could possibly mistake *Dictæa* for *Dictæoides*. The latter is a rich chocolate-brown with a deep yellow line on each side, an elevated anal line, and always feeds on birch; while *Dictæa* is found on the various poplars: never I believe on birch.—REV. JOSEPH GREENE, *Playford, Ipswich*; September 6, 1856.

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides*.—I regret having to differ from Herr Zeller, but I have not any hesitation in saying that the larva of *Leiocampa dictæa* varies from very light drab, sometimes with a greenish tinge, to dark olive, greenish brown, but never has the same glass-like appearance, or beautifully purplish tinge, which at once distinguishes the larvæ of *Dictæoides* from *Dictæa*, neither has *Dictæa* the broad yellowish white stripe of *Dictæoides*. I have frequently seen the capture of *Dictæoides* larva reported as taken on willows and poplars: all such reports are mistakes, and only perpetuate the almost stereotyped error that these dark larvæ are *Dictæoides*; they are the brown larvæ of *Dictæa*, which Professor Zeller emphatically maintains are *Dictæoides*. The larvæ of *Dictæa* found upon willows are generally light; on poplars and birch they vary, particularly upon birch. *Dictæoides* feeds exclusively upon birch, and *will not live on any other food!* As both are now feeding, those who doubt this may ascertain the fact for themselves, by beating birch, willows and poplars. Speaking of larvæ reminds me that it were well if English authors omitted copying the descriptions and food of larvæ from foreign works, except

when they are correct, which is not always the case. Continental authors seem to have copied each other; and in England the same thing has been, and is being, done to such an extent, that I fear the rising generation of entomologists will have to do as we have done, *viz.* undo much we thought we had learned, before they get at the truth.—C. S. GREGSON, *Stanley, near Liverpool*; September 6, 1856.

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides*.—I scarcely think Professor Zeller is quite right with respect to the larvæ of *Leiocampa dictæa* and *dictæoides*. The larva of *Dictæa* is not unfrequently of a greenish brown hue, though never so dark as that of *Dictæoides*, which is well described by Mr. Doubleday in your 'Manual,' and is at once distinguished from *Dictæa* by its deep purplish hue and clear rich yellow lateral line: when young, however, it is much more like the adult *Dictæa*, while *Dictæa*, in its infancy, is yellowish green, like *Lophopteryx camelina*, with a very distinct anal tubercle tinged with red.—R. F. LOGAN, *Harthornbrae, Duddingstone, near Edinburgh*; September 8, 1856.

*Larvæ of Dictæa and Dictæoides*.—I have once bred a few *Dictæoides* from the egg, and find the following note about the larva made at the time:—"Lead-colour, inclining to *lilac*, with broad sulphur-coloured lateral stripe, and a hump behind." These refused poplar and willow, and fed on birch, which I tried after losing about one hundred of the larvæ. I supposed them to be *Dictæa* at the time. Oh! that the 'Manual' had then existed!—BERNARD SMITH, *Marlow, Bucks*; September 8, 1856.

*Lepidoptera at Ramsgate*.—While at Ramsgate, about a week ago, I had the pleasure of finding a larva of *Charocampa Porcellus*; one of *Sm. Tiliæ* was found there also. Amongst other things *Cynthia Cardui* has been very abun-

dant, especially near Margate, where *Carduus nutans*, &c., flourish profusely. *Polyommatus Agestis* and *Corydon* have occurred in great numbers in fields of vetches, &c. *Vanessa Polychloros* has visited us frequently and *Maeroglossa Stellatarum*, the latter having appeared on the steam-boat several miles from land. It seemed to have a great partiality for one lady, and kept hovering around: whether gratified by the odours of Patchouli or Eau de Cologne, I know not.—B. H. POWELL, 6, *Stanhope Street, Hyde Park Gardens*; *September, 6, 1856.*

*Coleoptera taken on Box Hill.*—On the 28th of last month Mr. Brewer and I were on Box Hill, and were fortunate enough to capture a considerable number of insects, of which the following were the rarest:—

*Tarus axillaris*, 2

*Licinus depressus*, 4

„ *silphoides*, 3

*Amara patricia*, 1

*Harpalus depressus*, 1.

—D. WATNEY, *Box Hill*; *September 8, 1856.*

*Zabrus piger.*—On the 28th of July I took a fine specimen of this insect at the foot of Box Hill on the south-west side, which I understand is an old locality, the insect having been taken there some years ago in great profusion by Mr. Waterhouse.—IBID.

*Sirex Gigas.*—Several specimens of this insect have been lately taken in the neighbourhoods of Dorking and Reigate.—IBID.

*Acherontia Atropos.*—Both at Dorking and Reigate, and also at Brighton, the larva of this insect is pretty plentifully distributed.—IBID.

*Thecla Betulæ.*—Several of this pretty butterfly have been captured at Darent Wood during the last three weeks.—H. J. HARDING, 1, *York Street, Church Street, Shoreditch*; *September 10, 1856.*

*Anesychia decemguttella.*—For the last

five years this insect had not been found. This year it has again made its appearance, and I have taken several larvæ off the food-plant, *Lithospermum officinale.*—IBID.

*Asychna terminella.*—In the wettest part of the main path through West Wickham Wood, under the shade of the underwood, grows *Cireæa lubetiana*, and yesterday in its leaves I found the mining larvæ of the beautiful *Asychna terminella.* But, alas! I was almost too late, for although I got about twenty larvæ, I saw five times as many empty mines, conspicuous enough by their whiteness. I fancied, however, that some of the tenants of these mines had descended to the lower leaves, for in some of the latter I found two or three larvæ, the upper leaves being empty. But it is evident that those persons who wish to get the larvæ of this species have no time to lose. The plant grows close to the path, but it is there uninhabited: it is only in the thickest shade of the underwood that these larvæ are to be found, and I noticed that the plants growing close to the stem of the underwood were the most patronised.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; *September 9, 1856.*

*Food of the Larva of Polia Flavocincta.*—I lost all my *Flavocincta* larvæ this year from not knowing their proper food, which I have not yet learned. [Guenée says it feeds on “a number of low plants and even shrubs,” as though polyphagous]. *Young larvæ are so nice.*—BERNARD SMITH, *Marlow, Bucks*; *September 8, 1856.* [The last sentence reads like a saying of a tom-tit.]

*Sphinx Convolvuli.*—On Tuesday last I obtained a fine large specimen of *Convolvuli.*—R. EDON, *Mortlake, Surrey*; *Sept. 10, 1856.*

*Charocampa Poreellus.*—I took a considerable number of this at Haynes Park, Bedford, in the middle of July, taking as many as five of an evening whilst flying round the honeysuckle and verberna

flowers. But I am afraid that owing to my clumsiness and their vivacity, besides their being a little *passé*, they are not worth offering as duplicates to any one. I have taken lately the larva of *Cerura bifida* near Abingdon.—A SCHOOL-BOY ENTOMOLOGIST.

*Captures at Henfield, Sussex.*—The following is a list of my doings at Henfield and neighbouring woods during a stay of three weeks:—

- Apatura Iris, 6
- Leucophasia Sinapis, 1
- Thecla Betulæ, 40
- Vanessa Polychloros, 2
- Cerigo cytherea, 1
- Lophopteryx Camelina, 2
- Mitochrista miniata, 1
- Pterostoma palpina, 1.

—W. H. DRAPER, *Chichester*; Sept. 8, 1856.

*Spilosoma lubricipeda in the West of Scotland.*—You say in the 'Manual' for September, p. 118, that *Lubricipeda* "does not occur in Scotland." In this neighbourhood it is a pretty common insect, and for the last six years I have taken it every year in some considerable numbers. All the gardens in the village of Prestwick, about a mile from Monkton, furnish both the perfect insect and the caterpillar; the latter in abundance.—JOHN P. DUNCAN, *Monkton, Ayrshire*; Sept. 6, 1856.

*Spilosoma lubricipeda in the West of Scotland.*—In your 'Manual' I observe *Lubricipeda* is not allowed to live in Scotland. This won't do. Dr. Colquhoun and I have bred this species for several years from larvæ picked up in September. This spring the perfect insect was in plenty in the neighbourhood of Dunoon. I have also taken it in Bute, and Dr. Colquhoun in Ayrshire.—T. CHAPMAN, *Glasgow*; Sept. 10, 1856.

[It is very satisfactory to see how promptly any error is detected; the above are samples of several letters from West Scotland, but no one has claimed it as a

native of East Scotland. What are its limits of distribution Eastward? On the line of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, does it stop at the Falkirk Station? or does it reach as far as Linlithgow? or is Kirkintilloch its Eastern limit?]

*Callimorpha Jacobææ common in some parts of Scotland.*—At page 149 of the 'Manual,' you mention that *C. Jacobææ* is "in Scotland a great rarity." At one time this might have been so, but not now. I have taken the larvæ in some numbers off the *Senecio Jacobææ*, and also off *S. vulgaris* in Fifeshire, parish of Falkland, and near Kinross; in Perthshire, from Kinnoul Hill; but, so far as I can learn, it has not been found in Ayrshire, though the *Senecio Jacobææ* is very abundant. It occurs to me that it is fond of elevated situations, rather an alpine species, at least in Scotland; for in all the localities where I have found it, it was at a considerable elevation above the level of the sea or the surrounding valleys.—JOHN P. DUNCAN, *Monkton, Ayrshire*; September 6, 1856.

*Oporabia filigrammaria.*—On Sunday last I took several very fine specimens of the above insect; "on the wall" is certainly a very precarious method of finding them. I found out their peculiar habits, and can therefore take them at all times, to a certainty, by looking for them. I also took about a dozen of what I think will prove to be a new *Euthalia*; if not new, it is certainly a permanent variety; some of them are really elegant, and, like all the genus, are very variable; the situation is so totally at variance with the haunts of *Elutaria*, and the characters are so positive that it leaves more room for distinction than *Ruberaria* and *Impluviata*. I will leave it in more competent hands to decide. I took *Filigrammaria*, in fine order, off a lamp close to my door. Where has this come from? no place at all likely nearer than from ten to fourteen miles, unless it has come with the heath brought to town, as



doubtless many of the Sussex and Kent species come from the other side of the channel. Who knows but that the Lancaster *Machaon* went to have a nap on a railway carriage, and awoke at Lancaster?—J. B. HODGKINSON, 41, *St. Peter's Square, Preston*; September 11, 1856.

*Calathus mollis*.—If any Coleopterist wishes for specimens of this insect, I shall have much pleasure in supplying him within the next three weeks.—GEO. WAILES, *Newcastle-on-Tyne*; Sept. 13, 1856.

*Do the Lithosia larvæ eat anything but lichens?*—It seems difficult to believe that a larva which is naturally and habitually a lichen-feeder will at times eat the leaves of trees and plants. The Rev. Joseph Greene says in the 'Zoologist' for this month, p. 5252, that he has reared the "unknown larva" of *L. griseola* from plantain. Did he see it eat the plantain? and has any one else seen any *Lithosia* larva eat leaves of any tree or plant? I feel rather incredulous on the subject, but at the same time the fact may be so; and as Mr. Naish naïvely observes, "facts are stubborn things." The following passage in a letter in 'Sir Robert Peel's Memoirs' about not being too credulous, and at the same time not too doubtful, of what we don't wish to believe, is one that each entomologist should learn by heart: "I have learnt by long experience the necessity of distrusting ——— information, and at the same time of not neglecting statements which one is inclined to disbelieve."—H. T. STAINTON; September 9, 1856.

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#### MEMORABILIA FOR SEPTEMBER.

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COLEOPTERA.—*By T. V. Wollaston*.—The sweeping-net (how does the heart of a Coleopterist vibrate at the thought!) should now have no repose. Its climax

of usefulness has arrived, and these are the days when its virtues should be put to the test. The woods, at all times more or less prolific, are never richer in the "glorious races" than at the present season; and it would seem as if the insect minims, renewed with fresh vigour after the summer heats, had assembled in the greenwood glades for a parting dance, ere the general decay of vegetation, and the autumnal frosts (those stern fore-runners of Winter's iron reign) warn them that their time is short, and that they must soon either hibernate or die.

The grass beneath trees, whether in plantations, shrubberies or woods, is now very prolific; and numbers of species may be captured, especially amongst the smaller tribes, which occur but sparingly when "the year is young." The *Anisotomidæ* attain their maximum in the autumn, and may be obtained by brushing the vegetation, about sun-set; but they are more abundant in the midland and northern counties than towards the south. In Scotland, and the higher, oolitic districts of England, they may be frequently swept from off the short grass of open fields, and in other exposed situations. The *Atomariæ*, again, and several of the *Curculionidæ* (especially the *Apions*) are rampant, and may be taken in the utmost abundance amongst the rank vegetation of hedges and woods,—various species of them often congregating together to a remarkable extent. The *Halticæ*, also, and some of the *Galerucæ*, show wonderful signs (though only for a limited period) of restored numbers and strength; and the *G. Viburni* devours the foliage of the Guelder roses in sylvan spots,—a few raked stalks, surmounted by skeleton-leaves, being frequently all that remains to tell whose jaws have been thus unromantically at work.

The thickets, particularly where the common sloe abounds, may be beaten for the *Orchesiæ*: it is in such localities that the rare *O. minor* is to be taken. The

*Phloiophilus Edwardsii*, likewise, is of almost post-autumnal habits, and is in reality only "searce" because it is not usually looked for thus late,—when the year is supposed to have grown old. *Donant areana cylindros*.—T. V. W.

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MISCELLANEA.

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MR. GREGSON'S "AT HOMES."

C. S. Gregson hopes to be at home to entomologists on the first Wednesday in each month from October the 1st till April. Omnibusses from the Liverpool Exchange pass his door regularly.—*Edge Lane, Stanley, near Liverpool; September 12, 1856.*

---

THE RAMBLE LAST WEEK IN BURNT-ASH LANE.

This was rather an unfortunate affair; three entomologists came, but we were detained at home with a huge swelled face, and consequently were not able to meet at the appointed place. We sent a note, explaining the cause of our absence, to the trio in waiting, who proceeded up the lane by themselves, but had no very great sport.

In consequence of the disappointment thus caused, we have resolved to devote ONE NIGHT MORE to an entomological ramble: this will take place on Saturday, October 4th, 1856 (but not in Burnt-Ash Lane), in the lane leading from Lewisham Station to Mountsfield, and we will meet those coming on that occasion at 6.10 P.M., just where—

"They pause, for here two roads they meet."

(See 'Way to Mountsfield,' last stanza but one, p. 159.) This will be POSITIVELY THE LAST NIGHT THIS SEASON devoted to a ramble.

LISTS OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA.

I shall be happy to supply the remainder of my Lists of 'British Lepidoptera, excepting the Tineina,' Double-day's arrangement, at one shilling per dozen.—J. J. REEVE, *Newhaven, Sussex; September 15, 1856.*

---

*In the Press,*

ELEMENTS OF ENTOMOLOGY.  
By W. S. DALLAS, F.L.S.

It has been deemed advisable, with the view of securing a large circulation for this Elementary Work, to issue it in Monthly Numbers.

Each Number will consist of Twenty-four pages, 8vo; and it is intended to complete the Work in Fifteen Numbers.

No 1 will be published on the 1st of October. Price Sixpence.

London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.

---

*On Saturday, October 25th, price Two-pence, will be published the First Number of*

THE SUBSTITUTE; OR, ENTOMOLOGICAL EXCHANGE FACILITATOR, AND ENTOMOLOGIST'S FIRE-SIDE COMPANION.

This will be continued Weekly for Twenty Weeks. Each Number will consist of Twelve Pages, 12mo, and will contain Lists of Duplicates and Desiderata (which will appear in the order of priority in which they reach the Editor) and Notices of Summer Rambles, &c.

All communications for 'THE SUBSTITUTE' to be addressed "To the Editor of 'THE SUBSTITUTE,' 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street, London."

Those who wish to have 'THE SUBSTITUTE' forwarded weekly by post, are requested to forward Five Shillings in postage stamps to the publisher, E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street.

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Printed and published by EDWARD NEWMAN, Printer, of No. 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Without, London, in the county of Middlesex.—Saturday, September 20, 1856.

# THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 26.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1856.

[PRICE 1*d.*

## OH! MY CORNS!

IN a large assemblage where parties are in motion and not over-stocked with space, it is no uncommon circumstance for one person to impinge more or less forcibly on another; when if the party impinged upon is provided with those peculiar callosities found at the sides of toes, you may see an extraordinary grimace pulled—a grimace that would excite your kindest sympathy were it not at the same time so excessively ludicrous that it is very difficult to refrain from laughing; and you may hear the party who pulls this tragi-comic grimace exclaim, “Oh! my corns!”

Now the entomologists of this country form a pretty large assemblage, and considering how closely they are drawn in contact with each other, they may be considered not over-stocked with space, and for the last six months they have been pretty constantly in motion both physically and morally.

Amongst this dense crowd the ‘Intelligencer’ has wended its way with a will that nothing could withstand, and occasionally it has come in contact, perhaps rather more forcibly than it intended, with sundry little callosities, or excre-

scences, or foibles, or vanities, among the crowd; at any rate with something not unaptly compared to “corns.” When this has happened we believe the usual result has ensued, the parties impinged upon have pulled a comico-tragic grimace, and have felt mighty wrath at the ‘Intelligencer.’

Now we are going to our six months’ rest, and we do not like the idea of leaving any ill feeling behind us, so we take this opportunity of mentally shaking by the hand all those whose corns have felt our heavy tread. Let each bear in mind that though it might not be pleasant to him to have his corn trodden on, (it is not pleasant to have a tooth extracted), yet the grimace he pulled under the infliction may have served as a caution to many of the lookers-on to beware of contracting corns. Corns, like bad habits, are easier acquired than lost; and if we see how much others suffer from the possession of them, we shall be all the more determined to avoid them.

Hoping to meet each of our readers alive and well in April, 1857, we now say farewell; and though the wish appear rather premature, as we shall not have another opportunity of uttering it, we wish them, one and all, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

'THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER' will be resumed in April next year. No. 27 will be published on Saturday, April 4th, 1857, price One Penny. It will be continued weekly through the summer months, that is, to the end of September.

Those who wish their copies forwarded by post are requested to transmit 4s. 4d. in postage-stamps to E. NEWMAN, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate Street, on or before March 20th, 1857.

N.B.—All communications for the 'INTELLIGENCER' to be addressed to H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, in time to reach him by Wednesday in each week AT THE LATEST. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

---

Mr. STAINTON will be "at home" on Wednesday next, October 1st, at 6 P. M.

Trains leave London Bridge for Lewisham Station at 5.30, 6.0, and 6.45, P. M., returning at 9.23, 10.23, and 10.43, P. M.

In the 'Intelligencer,' No. 20, pp. 158, 159, will be found instructions whereby strangers can find their way to Mountsfield without a guide.

Mr. STAINTON will not be "at home" again till Wednesday, November 5th. In future he will only be "at home" the first Wednesday in each month.

Mr. STAINTON will meet those entomologists who may wish to join him on another expedition on Saturday evening next, October 4th, 1856, at 6.10 P. M., and at that spot in the 'Way to Mountsfield' where strangers

"Will pause, for here two roads they meet."

(See p. 159, last stanza but one.)

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

---

A. F., CHICHESTER.—Oak or mahogany will do well. Ask the maker which will be the cheapest.

G. R. R.—No fresh issue of Mr. Doubleday's Catalogue has yet taken place.

ACHERONTIA ATROPOS.—Several enquiries have been put to us lately, How long does the insect remain in the pupa state? We should be very glad if such of our readers who have had experience on the subject would inform both us and our enquirers by sending some notes on the duration of the pupa state of the Death's Head to the EDITOR OF 'THE SUBSTITUTE.'

LASIOCAMPA RUBI.—No difficulty in feeding it: it eats freely heather and bramble. No difficulty in rearing it if kept out of doors through the winter in a cage exposed to the weather.

C. D. S.—We are glad to hear of your catching Dragon-flies: unfortunately we do not know a recipe for preserving the colour of their bodies.

J. P. T.—Sorry we can't assist: could you get a little *patience*, perhaps next year you will find several of them yourself.

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*Several communications have reached us too late: we have handed them to the Editor of 'THE SUBSTITUTE.'*

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#### COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Results of a Week's Sugar in a Garden at Chichester.*—Mr. Draper and myself have taken the following during the last seven days:—

Noetua C-Nigrum,

„ Hebraica,

Agrotis suffusa,

Anthoecelis lunosa,

*Anthocelis pistacina*,

*Xanthia silago*,

„ *citrago*,

*Xylina lambda*,

*Calocampa vetusta*,

*Amphipyra pyramidea*.

—A. FULLER, *Brozle House, Chichester*; September 16, 1856.

*Captures in North Wales.*—The following are a few of my best captures in North Wales this season:—*Stilbia anomala*, on wing at dusk; *Caradrina alsines*, *Luperina furva*, *Spalotis praecox*, *S. pyrophila*, *S. Cataleuca*, *S. Ashworthii*, *Apleeta herbida*, at sugar; *Pyrausta cingulalis*, *Botys terrealis*, on wing all day; *Gnophos*, n. sp., allied to *obscuraria*, on wing all day; *Eupithecia oxidata*, *E. subfulvata*, *E. denotata*, *E. constrictata*, *E. absinthiata*, on wing at night; *Lamprosetia Verhuelletella*, on *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*; *Gelechia sequax*, on wing all day; *Pterophorus plagiodyctylus*, on wing all day.—S. CARTER, *Manchester*; September 14, 1856.

*Eupithecia assimilata.*—If those entomologists who are interested in the transformations of the genus *Eupithecia* will look, at this time of year, under the leaves of the Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*), they will find an elongate, pale green, geometrous larva, resting along the veins. This is the larva of *Eupithecia assimilata*.—R. F. LOGAN, *Duddingstone, Edinburgh*; September 16, 1856.

*Polyommatus Corydon and Hipparchia Semele.*—I am very sorry to say my stock of these insects was not equal to the demand. The consequence is, I shall be obliged to disappoint fifteen of the thirty-eight applicants; but if all is well I will do my best to supply them another season. I had laid in a good stock, as I thought, and was much surprised to find so many in want of *Corydon* and *Semele*. Many will have cause to thank you this season for many additions to their cabinets and for much useful information. I hope all will do what

they can to make converts, and thus increase the number of your readers.—E. WAGSTAFF, *Chippenham, Newmarket*; September 17, 1856.

*Deilephila Galii.*—I have this afternoon found a caterpillar of *D. Galii* on the Dyke Road on bedstraw: it is nearly full-grown. Another was found here last week.—J. R. GRIFFITH, *Brighton*; September 20, 1856.

*Water-beetles at Forest Hill.*—Yesterday I captured the following in the bit of the Croydon canal remaining at Forest Hill:

*Dytiscus circumflexus*, 2

„ *marginalis*, 2

*Ilybius fenestratus*, 60

„ *ater*, 1

„ *uliginosus*, 4

*Colymbetes pulverosus*, 2

„ *fuscus*, 4

*Agabus bipunctatus*, 2

„ *bipustulatus*, 2

*Hyphidrus ovatus*, 6.

I followed to the above place in the wake of Mr. Newman for the sake of *I. fenestratus*, a beetle that it had not been my good fortune to see alive. “Croydon Canal” is one of the old localities given by Stephens for the species, and it is surprising to see not only how local it is, but also how completely it is master of the situation: there are but few of any other large species to be found, and not one *Hydroporus* or *Haliplus*, or such small fry. Applicants will be supplied as long as my stock lasts.—J. W. DOUGLAS, *Lee*; September 21, 1856.

*Swarm of Coccinella 22-punctata.*—On the 31st August I saw very near the Fox and Hounds, at Darent, a plant of mullein so besprinkled with this beautiful little lady-bird that I was induced to make a record of numbers, with a view to adding this to my insect statistics. A little shaking and a considerable degree of activity in picking up produced 184. The plant was subsequently more rigidly searched in the hope of finding the Aphis

which had attracted such a congregation of Aphidivora, but not a living being besides the *Coccinellæ* was discovered.—  
EDWARD NEWMAN.

*Ilybius fenestratus*.—On the 17th I fished for an hour in the fragments of canal remaining at Forest Hill, and took 122 specimens of *Ilybius fenestratus*. Mr. Grut, who preceded me, took 88. There were few other *Dytiscidæ* to be found.—IBID.

*Ilybius fenestratus*.—I have taken this insect in some plenty lately in a pond on Earl's Wood Common.—J. A. BREWER, *Reigate*; September 23, 1856.

*A slight mistake*.—Having received a great number of letters requesting specimens in exchange, I write to say that I collect for sale, which will, I hope, explain why I have not answered all the letters sent me.—WILLIAM FARREN, JUNR., *King's Old Gateway, Cambridge*; September 19, 1856.

#### MISCELLANEA.

WOULD NOT "EXPLANATIONS" BE  
USEFUL FOR 'THE SUBSTITUTE.'

I have long since retired from the active pursuit of Entomology; but one of my boys resembles his parent in having a taste that way, and he let me have no peace during the summer holidays till I got him the 'Intelligencer,' which he used to see whilst at school (one of his school-fellows taking it in), and he felt to miss it when he came home. In due time I indulged his whim, little expecting to get so much information for my penny investment, for there were no 'Intelligencers' when I was a boy, or perhaps I should have prosecuted my studies with greater vigour. I hope the rising generation make good use of their many advantages.

Excuse my rambling a little; but I was going to say that my boy has sometimes come to ask me the meaning of certain phrases and expressions, and I thought if I were to write out some of my explanations they might be useful to some of your younger readers, who may have no old hand to whom to refer any difficulty, and little matters which appear quite clear to the initiated often serve as stumbling-blocks to the young for years.—PATERFAMILIAS.

[We cordially approve of our correspondents' idea of giving a few "Explanations" in 'The Substitute.' As he seems aware his style has a tendency to be "rambling," we hope he will do his best to avoid that tendency, and make each sentence clear and distinct.]

MR. DOUGLAS'S "AT HOMES."

As at present advised I shall not be able to see my entomological friends as usual on Friday evenings during the winter, nor indeed on any other evenings for certain: but should the rigour of my business engagements diminish I shall be happy to resume the meetings that have been, to me at least, so pleasant.—  
J. W. DOUGLAS; September 21, 1856.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
52, High Holborn, London.

JAMES GARDNER, Naturalist, begs most respectfully to inform his numerous Patrons and Friends that he is daily adding many Rarities to his already extensive Stock of INSECTS.

Priced List of Entomological Apparatus forwarded upon receipt of a stamped directed envelope.

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