

Part
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THE
ENTOMOLOGIST'S
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CONDUCTED BY

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LORD WALSHINGHAM, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

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“ If all the eggs laid by insects came to maturity, the earth would be overwhelmed with them, and every green thing would be devoured.”—*Packard.*

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and *Formicoxenus* are quite likely inhabitants of the county, and the absence of *Formica fusca*, race *cunicularia*, is hard to account for. Among the Fossors *Tiphia minuta*, *Calicurgus hyalinatus*, *Pseudagenia punctum*, *Cerceris quadricincta*, *Crabro signatus* and *Panzeri* are all possibilities. In the *Diptera* there are only seven not recorded, of which *Odynerus levipes* and *melanocephala* are the only species which can be said to be likely to occur. Among the *Anthophila* we should expect *Prosopis Masoni* to turn up, and as *Halictus prasinus* and *xanthopus* appear in the list, their corresponding *Sphecodes*, *reticulatus* and *spinulosus*, may hopefully be looked for. *Halictus breviceps*, *Andrena humilis*, *analisis*, *lucens*, and *niveata*, the little new species recently introduced into our list, may reasonably be expected to exist in the county. In the *Apidæ* the list is extraordinarily full, and *Melecta luctuosa* seems to be the only species which could reasonably be suggested as a possible addition to reward the ardour of collectors. The list is very free from printer's errors, *Didineis unicornis* (should be *lunicornis*) being the only serious one. Mr. Morley may fairly be congratulated on the way he has done his work.—E. S.

PRACTICAL HINTS ON THE FORMATION OF A COLLECTION OF COLEOPTERA :
by J. J. WALKER, R.N., F.L.S., &c. (Extracted from the "Transactions of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies for 1899." Pp. 18—35, 8vo).

We make no apologies for calling prominent attention to this very useful paper, because there are few, if any, better entitled than its author to write on the subject, and also because it is likely to escape the notice of some of those interested, for it is not all who see the "Transactions" of the recently established "South-Eastern Union," but all Coleopterists beginning work should certainly do so, if they cannot procure a separate copy of the paper. The amount of information crammed into these closely printed 18 pages is very great. Advanced workers will read it with interest; but it is of course mainly intended for the "beginner," and its great feature is its many-sidedness; there is scarcely any point, even of collateral importance, that does not receive attention. The same genuine enthusiasm and geniality in style so conspicuous in all others of Mr. Walker's writings is abundantly evident, with here and there humorous allusions. Such an article as this should be published in pamphlet form, and sold at a low price.

Obituary.

Richard Henry Meade, F.R.C.S., &c., died at his residence at Bradford on December 23rd, 1899, in his 86th year. He was the son of the Rev. Richard Meade, of Princes Risboro', Buckinghamshire, and was born in 1814. Destined for the medical profession, he was apprenticed at Bedford Infirmary, and afterwards studied at St. Bartholomew's, where he formed a life-long friendship with Sir James Paget, a fellow-student, whom he predeceased by only a few days. He became M.R.C.S. in 1836 and F.R.C.S. in 1845. For a time he appears to have been in practice near London, and also Lecturer on Botany at St. Bartholomew's. But in 1840 he succeeded to a surgical practice at Bradford, which became much extended, and he obtained a high reputation in that branch of the profession in Yorkshire: he also held several important public professional appointments, and for twenty years was a J.P. As a man of high character and distinct personality he will be much missed up north.

As a naturalist he appears to have commenced by writing on *Arachnida* in the "Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist.," in 1854. In 1855 he produced a "Monograph of the British *Phalangidæ* or Harvestmen" and a supplement thereto in 1861; also papers on the spiders of coal mines, &c., some of which appeared in the "Zoologist." Then, from some cause, probably pressure of professional work, he seems to have written next to nothing on entomology or allied subjects for fully ten years. But in the meantime he was amassing material in British *Diptera*, of which Order he had a wide general knowledge. The difficult and obscure *Muscidæ* (in the broad sense) became his speciality, and he was regarded as an authority thereon. Nearly the whole of his writings on *Diptera* appeared in this Journal from 1875 down to last year, when he published his paper on *Cordyluridæ*, which was barely finished before his last illness. He attacked the *Anthomyiidæ*, *Sarcophagidæ*, *Tachinidæ*, &c. A generic paper on North American *Anthomyiidæ* appeared in 1878. In 1897 he published separately "A descriptive list of British *Anthomyiidæ*," which was a second edition of his List in this Journal in 1881-3. We have heard Mr. Meade's work in *Diptera* condemned as not being sufficiently in advance of the time. From its style we think he never intended it to be more than tentative. He cleared the ground for future workers; he acquired a large amount of knowledge in a difficult and little-worked group; and he elected to let his fellow-students have the benefit of it, rather than allow it to die with him: and it should not be forgotten that much of his work was done at an age of more than four score years! Mr. Meade leaves three sons and three (two unmarried) daughters; of the sons one is a surgeon at Bradford, one a clergyman, and the third an officer in the navy.—R. McL.

Societies.

BIRMINGHAM ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY: *November 20th*, 1899.—Mr. G. T. BETHUNE-BAKER, F.L.S., President, in the Chair.

Rev. C. F. Thornewill showed specimens of *Lycana bætica* taken by Mr. Lowe in Guernsey, and said that there had apparently been a large immigration of the species to the island this year, as Mr. Lowe had taken about 80 in his garden, and seen many others; he also showed specimens of *Oporabia dilutata* from Calverhall, Salop, where he said all the specimens were of the same dark leaden colour, with but slight trace of the markings, and were much darker than those he had been in the habit of taking at Burton-on-Trent; and a series of *Cœnonympha Tiphon* from Calverhall. Mr. R. C. Bradley, a long series of *Bombus hortorum* taken this year, and showing a wide range of variation, var. *Harrisellus*, in all three sexes from Droitwich, var. *subterraneus*, ♀ and ♂ only from his garden at Moseley, and various intermediate forms from different places. Mr. J. T. Fountain, a number of insects taken during the year at Acock's Green, near to Birmingham, close to the buildings of the town, including *Leucania comma*, *Agrotis exclamationis* (a variable series), *Anchocelis pistacina*, *Orthosia lota*, *Grammesia trigrammica*, &c. Mr. P. W. Abbott, *Lepidoptera*, all from Wyre Forest, and chiefly taken this year; they included *Agrotis cinerea*, some of the dark form which represents the species there, *Sesia culiciformis*, with one white banded specimen caught last year, and an orange banded one caught this year, with typical ones; *Oporina croceago*, including two specimens which were light brown in colour, no trace at all of the usual orange