

that they are thus incongruously placed and associated. Both *Cydosia* and *Gnophæla* appear to me to be *Zygenidæ* with Bombycid analogies *in sensu* Packard. I hope Dr. Packard may be induced to study these forms. Neither do I believe our Texan species of *Cydosia* to be the *nobilitella* of Cramer. But all these questions, which ever way a full knowledge of these moths may determine us, must be entered into without temper and without unnecessary animadversions upon those whose experience has led them to opposite conclusions from those reached by the final verdict, a verdict which Mr. Smith's studies will, we may hope, be of a character to influence.

NOTES.

NOTES OF THE YEAR.

Dear Sir: With few exceptions insects were unusually scarce last season, probably on account of the continued cool weather and heavy rains. *Colias Philodice*, generally so abundant, was almost entirely absent, a few appeared in midsummer and the fall brood was more plentiful, but by no means abundant, and the latter might be said of most of our diurnals. The Noctuas were also conspicuous by their absence, at least at sugar, the baits failing to attract even the commonest species. *Eufitchia ribearea* was observed in numbers in a plot of black currant bushes, in an old orchard now included in Mount Royal Park, and *Orgyia leucostigma* was abundant on shade trees about the city. In the fall I found several species of *Eristalis* common on solidago blossoms, *E. Bastardi* and *E. Brousi* being especially abundant, while *E. transversus*, *E. Tenax* and *E. dimidiatus* were less common. The other orders were poorly represented, making it one of the worst collecting seasons in my experience.

F. B. CAULFIELD, Montreal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Dear Sir: The photograph from which the beautiful figure on p. 204, vol. xxi. of *Papilio Turnus* (aberrant form) was taken by Mr. H. N. Topley, of Ottawa, by the new Isochromatic process, and the engraving was made direct from the photograph. This acknowledgment should have appeared in the article, but was accidentally omitted from the proof.

J. FLETCHER.

A CORRECTION.

Dear Sir: In my note which appeared in your November number, I wrote, through inadvertence, *Phytolacca decandra*. The plant I referred to is *Veratrum viride*—not the “Garget,” but the “Indian Poke” or “Poison Poke.” I am ashamed at having to take up valuable space with a correction.

THOMAS W. FYLES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE COTTON WORM.

Dear Sir: The cotton worm (*Aletia Xylina*, Say). This interesting moth has been tolerably abundant during the middle of September in this district, and is as much of an entomological conundrum as ever. I took several specimens round the electric lights. They seemed quite fresh and presented no appearance of being travel-worn by their supposed journey from the cotton fields of the “land of Dixie” I captured two specimens on September 19 and endeavoured to hibernate them but failed, one dying on October 12th and the other on October 15th. I hope to make another attempt at some future day. It does seem curious that we cannot solve the problem of the northern food-plant of this moth.

E. BAYNES REED, London, Ont.

CHRYSALIDS DEVoured BY CATERpillARS.

Dear Sir: A few days ago I found a number of *Pyrameis cardui* larvæ and also several (4) of the common reddish brown hairy caterpillars (*Spilosoma Isabella*), so often seen about gardens in the fall feeding on plants of the common garden hollyhock (*Althea rosea*). Not having extra boxes to spare I placed both species in a roomy pasteboard box with a plentiful supply of hollyhock leaves. In the course of a day or two several of the *Cardui* larvæ hung themselves to the corner of the box, and in a short time three more transformed to chrysalids. What was my surprise on looking into the box this morning to see if any more had hung or transformed to find the reddish brown caterpillars had devoured two of the *Cardui* chrysalids, and one of the caterpillars was actually engaged eating the third and had consumed fully one-half of it. This was not done from lack of food, as there was an abundance in the box. Here, then, is a new source of destruction to our butterflies—a sort of cannibalism among caterpillars.

SHELLEY W. DENTON, Wellesley, Mass.

Mailed January 9th.