

smaller than those of *A. mellifica*, ten of the former being equal to nine of the latter; the cells of *A. Indica* were still smaller than those from the Cape; the combs of *A. floralis*, like those of *A. dorsata*, were attached to branches of trees; lastly, there were some cells of *A. dorsata*, made of the same material as the rest, but an inch and a half in depth, which Mr. Smith supposed to be honey-cells.

Mr. Druce exhibited a collection of butterflies from Nicaragua, brought to this country by Mr. Thomas Belt. Amongst them was a *Papilio*, near to *P. Sesostris*; and a series of *Heliconiidæ* representing four genera, but which looked like one species, the whole of them being found flying together. Ten or twelve new species had been obtained by Mr. Hewitson out of Mr. Belt's collection.

The President had obtained some handsome new species of *Coleoptera*, also from Mr. Belt, the scene of whose operations was the neighbourhood of the Chontales mines. Nicaragua was divided in the middle, the Atlantic side being forest, the Pacific side savannah and open grass-land; Chontales lay on the edge of the Atlantic belt of forest, and in consequence of the development of the mines there had been considerable felling of timber, and most of Mr. Belt's *Coleoptera* were brought to him by the wood-cutters: there were some very fine forms of *Stenaspis*, *Colobothea*, *Amphionycha*, *Oncideres*, *Anisocerus*, &c., &c., and it seemed as if the tropical types culminated in size and beauty in Nicaragua. So far as American *Coleoptera* were concerned (though he could not say that he had observed the same thing in other Orders), it seemed that at and near the Equator the species were comparatively dull in colour, but brighter hues were assumed both in the North and South tropics.

Mr. A. R. Wallace thought this held good in the East also. The beetles of Borneo were generally dull in colour, whilst more brilliant forms were found both in Ceylon and China, in Java and Australia. The excessive uniformity in the character of the vegetation was perhaps the cause of the prevailing dullness of the beetles found within the equatorial belt.

By an unanimous vote the Secretary was requested to express to the Rev. T. A. Marshall, on behalf of the Members of the Society, their sympathy and condolence with him on the recent loss, through the foundering of a ship between Milford Haven and Barnstaple, of the whole of his library and manuscripts and collection of insects. The destruction of his minute British *Hymenoptera* belonging to groups but little studied, and of the types of species characterized by Mr. Marshall, was more than a private misfortune, and was an irreparable loss to Science.

*Paper read.*

The following paper was read:—"Description of a new Genus and Species of *Prionidæ*," by Mr. Edmund Thomas Higgins.

The new form was named *Ommatomenus sericatus*, was allied to *Tithoes* and *Dorycera*, and was described as connecting the *Acanthophorus* group of the Old World with the *Derobrachus* group of the New World. It was found near the mouth of the Niger, and the *Acanthophorus megalops* of Mr. Adam White, from Fernando Po, was indicated as belonging to the genus *Ommatomenus*.