

Schmetterlings mit einem Raupenkopfe," and which related to a female example of *Hypogymna dispar*.

Mr. F. Smith mentioned that Prof. Owen had narrated to him how the hieroglyphic inscriptions on the ancient monuments in Egypt are obliterated by being filled in with mud composed of fine sand used by a common Egyptian wasp, *Rhynchium brunneum*, in forming its nests. And in connection with this subject he exhibited an example of the same wasp, which had been found by Dr. Birch when unrolling a mummy, there being every reason to believe that the insect had remained in the position in which it was found, ever since the last rites were paid to the ancient Egyptian.

Mr. Smith further mentioned that he had recently discovered a passage in 'Pepys's Diary,' which was, probably, the earliest record of the use of observatory bee-hives. The passage runs thus:—"May 5, 1665. After dinner to Mr. Evelyn's; he being abroad we walked in his garden, and a lovely and noble ground he hath: and among other rarities, a hive of bees which, being hived in glass, you may see the bees making their honey and combs mighty pleasantly."

Papers read.

Mr. Müller read a paper on the "Dispersal of Non-migratory Insects by Atmospheric Agencies," in which he had collected together many records in support of his opinion that various atmospheric phenomena played a considerable part in the wide dispersal of insects, and explained many points connected with their present geographical distribution.

In the discussion which followed, the President said he was quite of opinion that currents of air were the chief agencies in the peopling of oceanic islands with the smaller forms of animal life; though, no doubt, floating timber had the same effect, but in a lesser degree.

Mr. Bates and Mr. Pascoe asked how it was that the Coleopterous fauna of the opposite sides of high mountains, and mountain-chains, presented such marked differences, if their insect-inhabitants were liable to be carried over the summits by atmospheric agencies? And Mr. F. Smith, Mr. Pascoe, and Mr. M'Lachlan remarked on the extreme difficulty of naturalising insects in localities which apparently present no important climatic differences from those in which the species experimented upon are abundant.

Mr. Müller, agreeing with the suggestion thrown out by several members, explained this by the hypothesis, that though many individuals are dispersed in the manner he indicated, yet, owing to causes difficult to comprehend, the strangers are unable to cope with the pre-existing denizens of the locality, and thus only very few are able to maintain their position, and most of these die out before they are able to give birth to new varieties or incipient species.