

November 3, 1856.

W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., President, in the chair.

*Donations.*

The following donations were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—‘Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Dieman's Land,’ Vol. iii. Part I.; presented by the Society. ‘Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society,’ Vol. i. No. 3; by the Society. ‘Entomological Papers, being Descriptions of new Ceylon Coleoptera, with such Observations on their Habits, &c., as appear in any way interesting,’ by John Nietner, Colombo, Ceylon, Nos. 1 and 2; by G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq. ‘Bericht über die Oesterreichische Literatur der Zoologie, Botanik und Palæontologie aus den Jahren 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853;’ ‘Verhandlungen des Zoologisch-Botanischen Vereins in Wien,’ Band V.; by the Society. ‘The Natural History Review,’ No. 12; by the Dublin Natural History Society. ‘Entomologische Zeitung, 1856,’ Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10; by the Entomological Society of Stettin. ‘A Manual of British Butterflies and Moths,’ No. 9; ‘The Substitute,’ Nos. 1 and 2; ‘Elements of Entomology,’ by W. S. Dallas, F.L.S., No. 2; by H. T. Stainton, Esq. ‘The Athenæum’ for October; by the Editor. ‘The Literary Gazette’ for October; by the Editor. ‘The Zoologist’ for November; by the Editor. ‘The Journal of the Society of Arts’ for October; by the Society. A specimen of *Belostoma* sp——? by James Weston, Esq.

*Election of a Member.*

George Edwards, Esq., of 24, Acacia Road, St. John's Wood, was balloted for and elected a Member of the Society.

*Exhibitions.*

Mr. A. F. Sheppard exhibited *Acronycta Alni* and *Phibalapteryx gemmaria*, taken near Brighton.

Mr. Stevens exhibited a fine specimen, in its natural state, of the wax secreted by *Coccus pela*, or wax-insect of China, sent to him by Mr. Fortune.

Mr. Westwood said this *Coccus* was a subject of considerable interest, as we thus were able to see from what the Chinese wax is produced; it is the covering formed by the female of a species of *Coccus* called by the Chinese *pela*, whence the specific name applied to it: its chemical properties had lately been investigated by Mr. Daniel Hanbury, who had recently exhibited some very fine specimens. In some of the wax sent home by Mr. Fortune he (Mr. W.) had found the remains of male insects, and also two species of *Chalcidæ*, which were doubtless parasites of the *Coccus*.

Mr. Bowring observed that this wax was used in China to coat over the outsides of the candles made from the candle tree, in order to give them a hard surface.

Mr. Stevens exhibited a full-grown larva of *Agrotis Ashworthii*, remarking that it was one exhibited by him at a previous meeting, when but a few days old; also the bottle containing liquorice-powder exhibited at the last meeting, in which were specimens of *Endrosis fenestrella* still alive.

Mr. Stainton exhibited, on behalf of Mr. H. Cooke, a specimen of *Leucania vitellina*, a *Noctua* new to Britain, taken by him in his own garden at Brighton; also *Phlogophora empyrea*, *Leucania musculosa* and *Laphygma exigua*, all taken near the same locality during this season, and a specimen of *Cucullia Verbasci*, reared from larva which had been found feeding on *Buddlæa globosa*.

Mr. Douglas exhibited two specimens of *Brontes planatus*, *Lin.* (*Uleiota planata*, *Steph. Man.*), which he had taken on the previous day under the loose bark of a beech tree, in the neighbourhood of Lee, which had been felled about a year ago; and observed that the species is given by Stephens as "very rare, Hermitage, South Lambeth," and that Shuckard says, "very rare, query indigenous," so that the capture is of interest in more ways than one.

Mr. Stainton exhibited the cocoon of a species of *Tinea*, from Ceylon, attached to a footstalk about half-an-inch long, the cocoon itself being composed of network, similar to those of the European genus *Plutella*.

Mr. Westwood observed that a much more remarkable instance of the cocoon of a Lepidopterous insect being attached to a footstalk occurs in the *Saturnia Cynthia* of India, in which species the footstalk of the cocoon is two inches long.

Mr. Stevens exhibited the following Coleoptera, recently taken by Mr. Arthur Adams:—*Polistichus fasciolatus*, at Sheerness; *Trechus nanus*, at Mickleham; also six specimens of *Drypta emarginata*, and a larva which he presumed pertained to the latter species.

Mr. Westwood observed that the larva referred to *Drypta* was, in reality, that of a species of *Silpha*.

Mr. Weir exhibited a specimen of *Anthrribus albinus*, captured at Pembury, Kent.

Mr. Foxcroft exhibited some Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, taken in Scotland and Wales during the past summer, including a single specimen of *Otiorhynchus septentrionis*, from Perthshire.

Mr. F. Smith exhibited a specimen of *Cybister limbatus*, having the head of the larva instead of that of the perfect insect; it was found alive and swimming, in apparent health, by Mr. Bowring, at Hong Kong.

Mr. Westwood said this was the first recorded instance in Coleoptera of the imago being found with the head of the larva; in Lepidoptera, however, instances had occurred: a specimen of *Nymphalis Populi* was recorded in the 'Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Bruxelles,' having the head of the larva instead of that of the perfect insect.

Mr. Gregson sent for exhibition a pair of *Coleophora vitisella*, and the case of the larva of this species.

Mr. Stevens read an extract from a letter received by him from Mr. A. R. Wallace, written from Lombock, in which he remarked the paucity of insects of all orders in that locality, attributable to the greater part of the island being now devoted to the cultivation of rice.

The Secretary read the following extract from a letter from G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq., Director of the Botanic Garden, Peradenia, Ceylon, to William Spence, Esq.:—

"I have often observed, on the whitewashed walls of the houses here, a whitish-coloured spider stationary for hours, with its head downwards and its legs extended