

Mr. Newman read the two following notes:—

The Lost Spider.

“The Rev. Revett Sheppard has often noticed in the fen ditches of Norfolk a very large spider, which actually forms a raft for the purpose of obtaining its prey with more facility. Keeping its station upon a ball of weeds about three inches in diameter, probably held together by slight silken cords, it is wafted along the surface of the water upon this floating island, which it quits the moment it sees a drowning insect; not, as you may suppose, for the sake of applying to it the process of the Humane Society, but of hastening its exit by a more speedy engine of destruction. The booty thus seized, it devours at leisure upon its raft, under which it retires when alarmed by any danger.’—*Introduction to Entomology*, i. 428, Edition of 1828. There is good ground for giving implicit credence to the foregoing statement; Mr. Sheppard was an acute entomologist, a careful observer, and a gentleman of unquestionable veracity. It is therefore remarkable that this large spider should, even at the present hour, remain unknown to arachnologists. I shall be greatly obliged to any Norfolk entomologist who will seek it, and, if successful, send me specimens, together with any additional notes on its interesting economy.”

The Silk Spider of St. Helena.

“The silk spider of St. Helena is very handsomely marked and banded: it spreads its web in the warm valleys, and the fibres of its cocoon are so strung as readily to admit of being spun: indeed, they might be used as a substitute for silk.’—*Foster’s Voyage*, i. 373. There is scarcely a statement in the volumes where this is extracted but has been verified by subsequent writers. Can any entomologist give further particulars of this silk spider?”

Mr. Newman read a paper entitled ‘Characters of apparently undescribed Australian insects, collected at Moreton Bay by J. Gibbon, Esq., including the following species of various orders,—*Dorcostoma Jansoni*, *Alaus Gibboni*, *Stenoderus quietus*, *Euplœa Lycophon*, *Pangonia Walkeri* and *Dasypogon Grantii*.’

Mr. Stainton read a paper entitled ‘How may the onward progress of the Study of Entomology be best furthered?’

Part 7, Vol. iii., n. s., of the Society’s ‘Transactions,’ recently published, was on the table.

March 3, 1856.

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

Donations.

The following donations were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—‘*Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*,’ Vol. xvi. Part 2;

by the Society. 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London,' Parts 18 to 22, being for the years 1850 to 1853 and part of 1854; 'Reports of the Council and Auditors of the Zoological Society of London,' for the years 1852 to 1855; by the Society. 'Proceedings of the Royal Society,' Nos. 17 and 18; by the Society. 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie,' 1855, No. 12, and 1856, No. 1; by the Editor, M. Guérin-Méneville. 'The Athenæum' for February; by the Editor. 'The Literary Gazette' for February; by the Editor. 'Journal of the Society of Arts' for February; by the Society. 'Insecta Saundersiana,' Diptera, Part V.; presented by W. W. Saunders, Esq. 'The Zoologist' for March; by the Editor. 'Entomologische Zeitung,' Nos. 1 and 2, January and February, 1856; by the Entomological Society of Stettin. 'A Manual of British Butterflies and Moths,' by H. T. Stainton, No. 1; by the Author.

Exhibitions.

Mr. Stevens exhibited a specimen of *Epischnia diversalis*, a reputed British species, taken in October, 1855, by Mr. Mitten, "flying in a thin wood near Hurstpierpoint, Sussex."

Mr. Stevens also exhibited a few very remarkable insects sent from Borneo by Mr. Wallace. Mr. White took occasion to make some remarks upon these insects, and urged the members to pay more attention to exotic Entomology.

The President exhibited a new Longicorn beetle from N. India, in which were combined several anomalous characters, rendering its relationship very doubtful.

The President also exhibited an amphipod crustacean, from a well at Wandsworth. Mr. Westwood identified it as *Gammarus subterraneus*, *Leach*, belonging to the blind genus *Niphargus*, *Schiödte*. Mr. Lubbock remarked that he had seen a similar example from a well near Bromley, which unfortunately was not preserved. He took this opportunity to mention that he would be glad to receive fresh-water Entomostraca from any part of the world.

Mr. Stainton exhibited a Lepidopterous larva, probably of an *Ephestia*, said to have been vomited by a gentleman.

Mr. Hudson exhibited a *Dorcus parallelipedus* and a living larva of the same species, dug out of an old ash tree at Coombe Hurst, Croydon.

The Rev. W. H. Hawker sent for exhibition a singularly pale variety of *Arctia Caja*, bred at Horndean.

Mr. Douglas exhibited living larvæ, probably of *Ocnerostoma piniariella*, feeding within the foliage of the Scotch fir.

Mr. Walker exhibited a *Necrophorus Vespillo* and a cockchaffer, dug up last month.

Mr. Wollaston exhibited some of the Coleoptera captured by him last summer, at Madeira.

Acari and "Fogging" of Daguerreotypes.

Mr. Tapping exhibited a drawing of an *Acarus*, of which many dead examples were found by Mr. Fedarb, of Dover, beneath the glass of a Daguerreotype ten years old; and as this picture was affected by what is technically termed "fogging," it had been thought there might be some connection between *Acari* and this obscuration of Daguerreotype pictures, a subject which had recently excited much attention.

Mr. White said this *Acarus* was very like, and probably identical with, *Cheyletus eruditus*, the common paste mite; that its presence was due to paste having been