

forty people are cousins to the entire population of Boston; does that relation either prove or disprove their possession of traits in common that do not appear among 40 other cousins of 40 different names?

ENQUIRER.

The Systematic Position of the Diptera.

In reply to the article, by Professor J. M. Aldrich, in *Science* of April 26, I will say that the Diptera are undoubtedly the most highly specialized order of insects. Professor Hyatt deserves credit for apparently being the first one to call attention to this idea and offer proofs to sustain it. His idea of what constitutes specialization is correct, from my standpoint. I realize the force of Professor Aldrich's remark, when he says that this line of reasoning will apparently lead us to the conclusion that the Pupipara are the highest insects; but I am inclined to believe that the higher families of Cyclorrhapha will be found to exhibit greater specialization. Everything points to their being of the most recent origin. If anything has been published on the the embryology of the Pupipara, I am not aware of it. Embryological research alone will clear up this point, and there is no reason in the world why it should not show that the Pupipara have long ago passed through stages now occupied by apparently more highly developed Diptera, but it is improbable, to say the least. If it can be demonstrated, I shall be glad to accept the Pupipara as the highest insects.

C. H. TYLER TOWNSEND.

Las Cruces, N. M., May 26.

A Botanical Congress and Botanical Nomenclature.

I HAVE read your note of May 20, with reference to the action of the Botanical Club of Washington upon the questions of a botanical congress and botanical nomenclature. It has always seemed to me wise for American botanists first to agree among themselves in reference to this matter, and then they will be in a better position to come to an understanding with the rest of the world. There is no more representative body of American botanists than the Botanical Club of the American Association. It is perfectly democratic; every botanist in the country can join it and take part in its discussions. It may be questioned whether its boundaries are not too ill-defined to make it a fit body to decide such important questions; but it is surely a capital place for their discussion.

JOHN M. COULTER.

Bloomington, Ind., May 25.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE first number of the *Yale Review*, a quarterly journal of history and political science, has just been issued for the month of May. It is edited by Professor George P. Fisher and others of Yale University, but will welcome contributions from every quarter and from every school. The papers in this opening number are on "German Tariff Policy, Past and Present," by Henry Villard and Henry W. Farnam; on "The Demarcation Line of Pope Alexander VI," by E. G. Bourne; on "Legal

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For information address Mr. FRITZ RUHL, President of the Societas Entomologica, Zurich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

NEO-DARWINISM AND NEO-LAMARCKISM.

By LESTER F. WARD.

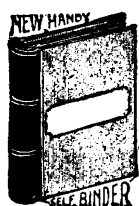
Annual address of the President of the Biologica Society of Washington delivered Jan. 24, 1891. A historical and critical review of modern scientific thought relative to heredity, and especially to the problem of the transmission of acquired characters. The following are the several heads involved in the discussion: Status of the Problem, Lamarckism, Darwinism, Acquired Characters, Theories of Heredity, Views of Mr. Galton, Teachings of Professor Weismann, A Critique of Weismann, Neo-Darwinism, Neo-Lamarckism, the American "School," Application to the Human Race. In so far as views are expressed they are in the main in line with the general current of American thought, and opposed to the extreme doctrine of the non-transmissibility of acquired characters.

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ADDRESS WANTED.—Will some one please send the address of the Secretary of the American Philological Society. Also that of Herbert Spencer. "ADDISON," Room 84, 164 Madison St., Chicago, Ill.