

ally Mr. J. B. Ellis, Messrs. Seymour & Earle, and, in Italy, Briosi and Cavara, have carried forward this excellent work.

Nothing of the kind has heretofore been done in entomology, and, in fact, it is only in the case of scale insects that this method of publication is possible. Quite recently Dr. A. Berlese and Dr. G. Leonardi, of the Superior School of Agriculture in Portici, have begun the publication of a series of Coccidæ based upon the mycological method. The first number, which has just been issued, contains in a large octavo volume, 25 species of Italian Coccidæ of economic importance. The form of the work is exceptionally pleasing. The printed matter comprises title page, index and the full synonymy and bibliography of each species. An entire sheet is given to each species and a sufficient number of specimens in situ on the leaf or bark, as the case may be, are folded into a commodious pocket. This publication, for certainly it must be called a publication, will be greeted with great pleasure by all economic and systematic entomologists. Nothing could be done which would better facilitate the labors of both classes of workers. A number of the synonyms appear surprising, but there is at present no reason to doubt their correctness. For example, *Parlatoria pergandei* Comstock, a well known enemy of citrus trees in Florida and Louisiana, is according to the authors, identical with the European *Parlatoria proteus* of Curtis; *Mytilaspis citricola* Comstock, nec Packard, becomes a synonym of *Mytilaspis fulva* Targioni Tozzetti; and for the California red scale of the orange the authors have erected a new genus, *Aonidiella*, the full description of which appears in Berlese's 'Italian Coccidæ living upon Citrus Plants,' Part III.

L. O. HOWARD.

*Hypnotism, Mesmerism and the New Witchcraft.*

By ERNEST HART. New Edition. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1896. Pp. 212. 8°.

The demand for a second edition of Mr. Hart's book within three years after its first appearance is a welcome indication that although, as Mr. Hart strikingly illustrates, 'Populus vult decipi,' a small portion of the public at least is willing to be undeceived. The main object of

the volume is to inspire a reaction against the current uncritical and pernicious devotion to a certain obscure and semi-morbid portion of psychic phenomena. Hypnotism and faith-cure and telepathy and 'Psychic Research' have been seized upon by men and women without special fitness or training for such study, and have become to these well-meaning but misguided adepts a form of new witchcraft. Not only they, but men of scientific training and wide reputation, have contributed to the general mass of error by carelessness in experimentation, and by a lack of a realization of the vast possibilities of intentional deception and unconscious self-deception inherent in such investigations. The sensational and extravagant experiments of Dr. Luys, in which he claimed to have demonstrated the action of a magnet upon hypnotized subjects, the transference of sensations from a doll to a subject, the mysterious influence of sealed drugs acting at a distance, and the like, are particularly well 'exposed' by Dr. Hart. Wooden magnets and 'unmagnetized dolls' and drugs called by false names were found to be equally effective if only the subject believed them to be what they purported to be.

The main addition to the present edition of this series of essays is the one entitled 'The Eternal Gullible,' which contains a very remarkable account of the methods pursued by by public 'hypnotists,' in London, for obtaining bogus subjects. There seems to be a training school where young men with dull moral and physical sensibilities are taught to endure the pain of needles thrust through the cheek and fingers, to drink paraffin mixture, to sing a comic song, act any part assigned by the hypnotist, 'do catalepsy,' and the like. Mr. Hart's evidence is complete and convincing, but it seems rather strange that such methods should be resorted to when the training of genuine hypnotic subjects to do these things is so simple a matter.

While the general trend of Mr. Hart's volume is to be warmly commended, it will probably weaken its own cause by its slight but appreciable overstatement. Mr. Hart records his belief in the reality of the hypnotic state and in the existence of valid and scientific in-

vestigation of such states, but the admission is hardly prominent enough to prevent the reader from forming the notion that all hypnotic research is humbug and deception. Indeed, in the preface to the second edition, Mr. Hart goes so far as to say "Hypnotism, when it is not a pernicious fraud, is a mere futility which should have no place in the life of those who have work to do in the world." Such a statement entirely overlooks the large number of critically authenticated cases of the therapeutic application of hypnotism; it ignores the significant and important contributions to the understanding of psychological principles that have sprung from this study. As a popular fad or amusement such topics are certainly pernicious in the extreme; but it will hardly do to associate with this the painstaking and scientific investigations of able and discerning experts.

JOSEPH JASTROW.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON,

JUNE 4, 1896.

MR. ASHMEAD exhibited a specimen of the genus *Cardiochiles*, of Nees, and announced its identity with Say's genus *Toxoneura*. It has priority and forms the type of a subfamily distinct from the *Microgasterinae*.

Mr. Howard exhibited specimens of an adult and cocoon of *Attacus jorulla* Westwood, to which he had referred in a note in *SCIENCE*, of May 29th.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited specimens of *Atimia confusa* Say, a Longicorn beetle previously taken in the Lake Superior region, District of Columbia and northern Texas, the food habits of which were unknown until recently. He had found it attacking Juniper in the District of Columbia. He also exhibited specimens of *Lachnosterna cribrosa* from Texas.

Mr. Marlatt presented a paper entitled 'Notes on Texas Insects,' relating to some of the common insects of southwestern Texas which he had collected in April and May of the present year. The collecting had proved to be poor, owing to a severe protracted drought, and was only fair in such of the arroyos as had not been pastured by stock.

Mr. Schwarz presented for publication a paper entitled 'Notes from Southwestern Texas, No. IV; Food-plants and habits of some Texan Coleoptera,' in which he particularly described the coleopterous fauna of the Mesquite and Cactus. In discussing this paper Mr. Marlatt referred to the flowering *Opuntias* of the dry plains of Colorado and Kansas as affording extremely rich collecting fields, while the same plants in southern Texas did not offer the same opportunity to collectors. This was explained by Mr. Schwarz as due to the fact that the Mesquite and *Opuntia* flower simultaneously in Texas, and the former proves more attractive to the insects and draws them away from the Cactus. Some discussion ensued upon the superstitions regarding various insects pervading southwestern Texas, some of which were said by Mr. Schwarz to be probably of very ancient origin. Both the speaker and Mr. Marlatt referred to the dread of the inhabitants of the common *Pasimachus californicus* and *P. duplicatus*. These harmless ground beetles are known to the Mexicans as the 'cucurazza' and are supposed to be extremely poisonous, while in certain localities the English-speaking people know the *Pasimachus* as the 'shear-bug' and state that it is very injurious to grapevines and vegetables by cutting young plants, a statement which is fully as erroneous as the one made by the Mexicans.

L. O. HOWARD,  
Secretary.

##### CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE eighty-eighth regular meeting was held Thursday, April 9, 1896. The Society was called to order at 8 p. m. by the President, Dr. A. E. de Schweinitz, with thirty members and ten guests present. The first paper was by Mr. V. K. Chestnut upon 'Some Vegetable Skin Irritants and their Chemical Composition.' The paper consisted of a review of the work of Dunstan and Miss Boole on croton oil, and of Pfaff on Toxicodendrol—a new oil-like body from the poison ivy, *Rhus radicans*; together with an account of some vesicating plants which have been but little studied. Specimens of this plant were exhibited, and the effect of an alcoholic solution of lead acetate as an antidote to