

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1898.

MIMICRY IN INSECTS.*

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SHARING in the perplexity avowedly felt by many of my predecessors in this chair as to the choice of a subject for the annual address—perplexity arising rather from the redundancy than from the scarcity of entomological matter—I have been led to think, considering the wide reaching importance of the questions involved and the unmistakable interest shown in the recent discussion at two of our meetings, that some account of the mimetic relations existing among insects might not be out of place. Having for a considerable period devoted some attention to the matter, I propose to pass in review what has been placed on record; and if, in so doing, I traverse ground very familiar to most of us, my excuse must be the fascinating interest which attaches to the whole subject.

The application, by Henry Walter Bates, our lamented President, of the great principle of natural selection in elucidation of the mimeries found among insects† is too well known to require any detailed repetition here. It is sufficient to recall that, as the result of many years' experience in tropical South America, Bates established the facts that (1) among the abundant and conspicuous butterflies of the groups Da-

* Address of the President, Mr. Roland Trimen, F.R.S., before the Entomological Society of London, 1898.

† Trans. Linn. Soc., XXIII. (1862).