

continued bright at least in the NW. till 3:45 A.M., and probably later till the dawn blotted it out. Auroral pencils and sharp streamers being notably absent there was nothing to detract from the splendor of the great curtains.

On the following two nights there may have been auroras behind the clouds. On that of the 4th a moderate display with some pretty streamer action at about 3 A.M. was visible all night from Mt. Washington. The following two nights were cloudy. Then another display occurred. At 7:42 P.M. on the 7th a smooth auroral arch covered most of the sky up to the pole-star (45°) at Carter Notch, but by 7:57 there was but a low arch. The maximum with some streamers occurred apparently at about 10:30 P.M. The aurora was visible at other times throughout the night. On the evening of the 8th a faint arch broken by streamers in the NNW. was visible; and on the following evening there seemed to be a faint arch.

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THE COCCIDÆ OF CEYLON

ENTOMOLOGISTS are indebted to Mr. E. E. Green for by far the most ambitiously conceived and most admirably executed contribution to the knowledge of the Coccidæ or scale insects that has ever been made—the "Coccidæ of Ceylon." This work, which is still incomplete, has been issued in parts and the final part would have appeared long ago but for the interference of the war. I am informed by Mr. Green that as matters now stand the long-hoped-for appearance of this final volume seems indefinitely postponed because of the enormously increased costs of printing. The only hope that he may be able to proceed with its publication at all lies in the possibility of obtaining adequate assurance that the entire issue can be sold.

It may at first appear that a work which deals with but a limited aspect of the fauna of a comparatively remote island such as Ceylon can have but little interest for Americans. Yet such is decidedly not the case with this

work. Many of the species included are practically cosmopolitan and the ever present possibility of the spread of others through the agencies of commerce makes desirable any information that can be obtained concerning them. The Coccidæ of Ceylon is indispensable to any one who is at all seriously interested in the scale insects. Its completion is a matter in which all students of the Coccidæ should take a personal interest.

The price of the final part has been set at 3 pounds, which is the actual cost of publication, and of the entire series of five parts at 8 pounds. To those who are familiar with the work the price will not seem in the slightest degree excessive. Mr. Green says:

If I could get definite promises of support from a considerable number of prospective purchasers, I should feel justified in going ahead at once.

It is sincerely to be hoped that these promises may be forthcoming. Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. E. E. Green, Way's End, Camberley, Surrey, England.

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A METHOD OF PROTECTING MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS FROM MECHANICAL INJURY

THOSE who have to deal with classes using chiefly microscopic slides, especially of embryos, will appreciate the fact that most of the damage to sections comes not from breaking of the slide but as the result of pressure on the cover glass. Such damage would not be possible but for the fact that most of the balsam remains fluid, even after many years, and consequently offers no firm support to delicate structures. If only some firm transparent substance could be found in which the sections might be imbedded the defect resulting from the fluid nature of the balsam might be counteracted and the tissues kept in perfect condition for successive classes.

Celloidin sections fulfill most if not all of the mechanical requirements, but are unsuitable because of the great amount of time required for cutting and mounting serially. However, these considerations led to the development of the following process which combines all of the advantages of the paraffine