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FOR

1858.

APRIL - SEPTEMBER.



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E. NEWMAN, PRINTER, DEVONSHIRE STREET, BISHOPSGATE.

To

GEORGE BEDELL, ESQ.,

WHOSE COLLECTION

OF MICRO-LEPIDOPTERA,

WAS, TEN YEARS AGO, THE GREAT STIMULUS

TO THE EXERTIONS OF OTHERS IN THAT GROUP,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED,

IN MEMORY OF

AULD LANG SYNE.

...

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No. 79.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1858.

PRICE 1d.

EXAMINATIONS.

At present there is a perfect rage for Examinations; we have the Civil Service Examinations, the East India Company's Examinations, the Society of Arts Examinations and the Oxford Middle Class Examinations. Every body is either an examiner or going to be examined. Well, so far good; we have no doubt that examinations really are beneficial in enabling individuals to obtain a more defined outline, as it were, of their own knowledge, and both questioner and answerer are no doubt benefited by the process.

But if Examinations are useful for general knowledge, would they not be very serviceable for Entomology? Why should not a class of Hymenopterists be examined by Mr. Smith in his 'British Bees?' Why should not a class of Coleopterists be examined by Mr. Dawson in his 'Geodephaga?' Why should not a class of Micro-Lepidopterists be examined by Mr. Stainton?

Seriously, we think something serviceable might be done in this way; but how are the examinations to be conducted? In writing or viva sece? Of course the difficulty of a viva voce examination would be very great, and, we fancy, insuperable; for instance, how are John Hobbs, who lives at Thetford, and William Buubury, who lives at Horncastle, to get a vive core examination, supposing they take to the audy of Coleoptera? Are they to come to London, or is the examiner in Coleoptera to go to Thetford and Horncastle, and, in either case, who is to pay the expenses of locomotion? We fancy it would puzzle even Dr. Booth to solve that problem.

Hence we assume that, unless perbaps in London, where an examination eine roce might answer, for all rural districts the examination must be in writing. Now who are to be the caudidates? is it to be limited to any age? or is any old don to be allowed to go in and show his proficiency, and astonish the juveniles? A youth of seventeen would see no amusement in competing with Senex, who is just seventy; and, in like manner, twentyfive would not care to come in competition with fifty.

And yet it is quite possible that a man may have attained forty or fifty years of age before his attention is diverted to the study of insects, so that, though a middle-aged man, he may still be only an entomological babe; but still the difficulties seem so great

with reference to the examination of entomologists, who, though green to the study, are old in years, that we are not disposed to recommend that the

entomological examination be open to

any one above the age of twenty.

We would suggest there should be
a junior and senior class; the junior
class between fifteen and seventeen
years of age, the senior between seventeen and twenty.

As to the subjects of examination, the certificates of merit and the prizes to be awarded, we must reserve the consideration of these subjects for a future number.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTEL-LIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate, and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Bow.

RETAIL of James Gardner, 52, High Holborn; H. J. Harding, 1, York Street, Church St., Shoreditch; A.W. Huckelt,

3, East Road, City Road.
At PECKHAM, of W. Weatherley, High

Street.
At BRIGHTON, of John Taylor, Newsagent, Stationer, &c., 86, North

Lane.
At Luxos, of J. Fox, Bookseller, &c.,

Boundary Terrace, Burley Road.

At Birmingham, of Robert Burns, 63,
Edmond Street, and T. J. Wilkinson,

11, Ludgate Hill. At York, of Robert Sunter, 23, Stone-

gate.
At Cheltenham, of C. Andrew, 129,
High Street.

At Sherriett, of Charles K. Jarvis, Periodical and News Agent, Post Office, Barker's Pool. At Middleron, of John Fielding, Bookseller, Wood Street.

At Oldham, of John Holt, Bookseller, 6, George Street.

At ROTHERHAM, of H. Carr, Bookseller, Bridge Street.

At MAIDSTONE, of Messrs. Nicholsons, Brothers, Printers and Stationers, 31, Mill Street.

N.B. Country Newsvenders who have this paper on sale are requested to send us their names and addresses to be added to the above list.

All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, S.E. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

Mr. Stainion will be "at home," as usual, on Wednesday, April 7th, at 6 P.M. In consideration of the Easter holidays, several hoxes of duplicates will be on the table for the use of incipients, who are hereby requested to bring their own empty boxes.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. D. D., ARUNDEL, is thanked for his Pyralideous information.

RECTER FOR GUE, -- See Ent. Annual, 1855, 2nd edition, p. 106.

Type enquires which is the best way to take insects on sallows: that depends exceedingly on the size of the sallows and their places of growth: the plan to be adopted where the sallows are very low is simply to look over them with a lantern; where they are tall and out of reach of course thrashing must be tried. Type wants to know whether he should take a net, an umbrolla or a sheet? really, unless we saw the ground, it is very difficult to say, but we can scarcely fancy a

sheet would ever come in handy; of course where the sallows grow over water, the surface of the water itself forms a natural sheet whereon to collect the Taniocampa. Each locality must show which is the best modus operandifor it.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Brephos Parthenias.—On the 21st inst. I went to West Wickham to eatch this species, but was unable to take any, on account of their high flight; they flew quite as high as T. Quercus.—CHALES HEALY, 4, Bath Place, Huggerelone, N.E.; March 23.

Eriogaster Lanestrie. - Last summer I supplied several correspondents with larvæ of this insect; one of them, writing to me a day or two ago, remarks pageingly, " Lancetris fed well, and all spun up; four females have lately made their appearance, stimulated by the parlonr fire." Now I had unsuccessfully tried the same experiment on this insect in former years, and knowing that it soldom appears the first spring, I had not hitherto attempted to force my present stock of pups: as those of my correspondent were from the same broods as my own, I determined also to "stimulate." Yesterday morning I placed some 300 pupe on the chimney · place, which was perceptibly warm to the hand; in three hours fiftythree had emerged, namely, forty-nine males and four females. I then removed the box containing them to a cooler place, as many appeared likely to be crippled from the too rapid drying of their wings. In the evening I set my specimens, and again placed the box in the same situation, allowing it to remain for several bours, but not a single further issue took place, nor did any emerge during the night, although kept in a warm bed-room. At the same time this morning I again placed the box on the chimney-piece; in less than two hours twenty-five others had made their appearance, namely, fourteen males and eleven females. Those who have a stock of these pupe had better also try the experiment.—Grouge Gascoyne, Newark; March 19.

Geometra Papilionaria,—The larve of this species I have taken rather freely during the last few days. Should any of your readers be in want of the insect, they will probably do well in examining minutely the young birch trees in woods of two or three years' growth.—

B. H. FREMLIN, Wateringbury, Kent;
March 23.

Larve of Empithecia.—In the genus Empithecia the larve of the following species are altogether unknown:—

Pulobellata, Iudigata,
Subumbrata, Constrictata,
Plumbeolata, Expallidata,
Haworthiata, Subciliata,
Pygrasata, Togata,
Kgenaria, Debiliata,
Irriguata,

and the larve of Vulgate and Dodonacta have never been described. If any of my readers can furnish any information respecting these larves I shall feel much obliged.—H. T. STAINTON; Murch 20.

The Sallows out in Sectland.—I am surprised that the sallows are not out with you; they have been out almost a week here. We have a long season of them here, for some grow on a sheltered side of Kinnoull, and come out early, while the more exposed come out late. The Taniocampa do not appear to be out, as we only got Vaccinii and Spadicea at these sallows last night. At sugar we got Satellitia, Vaccinii, Spadicea and Exoleta, some Geometra flying, and some Tortrices and Tineina sitting on whins and broom. We have had weather almost as warm as June for the last week.—

F. B. W. WHITE, Perth; March 23.