

March 3, 1880.

H. T. STANTON, F.R.S., &c., Vice-President, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Donations to the Library were announced, and thanks voted to the respective donors.

Election of Members.

Dr. Henry Charles Lang, of 41, Berners Street, Oxford Street, and Mr. Frank Crosbie, of The Chestnuts, Barnet, Herts, were balloted for and elected Ordinary Members.

Exhibitions.

Mr. F. P. Pascoe exhibited several species of scorpions *à propos* of a controversy which has recently been going on in 'Nature,' respecting a statement that scorpions are in the habit of stinging themselves to death when in the midst of a circle of fire from which they are unable to escape. He pointed out that the two common European species, *Scorpio europæus* and *Buthus occitanus*, were almost physically incapable of reaching a vital part owing to the shortness of the tail or post-abdomen. Mr. Pascoe thought there must be some error of observation with those who asserted the contrary. From his own experience, he believed that scorpions were only able to strike backwards and a little upwards. In some forms with very long tails, such as *Lychas*, &c., it might be quite possible for the animal to insert its "sting" into the soft parts between the segments; but he thought it was questionable whether, in this mild way, any poisonous matter would be ejected. Another difficulty was that when the tail was so bent back the convexity of the sting would be downwards, and consequently its point would be upwards and away from the cephalothorax.

Mr. S. Stevens exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Pim (who was present as a visitor), a dwarfed female specimen of *Plebeius Icarus* (*Lycæna Alexis*).

The Rev. A. E. Eaton exhibited three plates of drawings of *Ephemeridæ*, showing the structural details of the species represented. These beautifully executed plates, which are about to be published in a forthcoming work on this family, contained figures of the following species:—

Tricorythus maximus (in *Cænis*), Joly.

Batisca obesa, Say. The fore-wings of this species are connate along the greater part of the terminal margin, so as to form a shield covering the base of the abdomen. Antennæ short, deflected, 7-jointed, with the joints unusually long. Labial palpi 3-jointed, chelate.