

They then exhibit a casual glare as they crawl about within. As to the contemporaneous flashes of myriads, such as are more frequently congregated on the calmest nights, surrounding objects previously involved in obscurity become suddenly illuminated as if by electricity, and as rapidly plunged in their antecedent gloom at alternate intervals. He could not concur in the hypothesis that currents of air had any connexion with such displays or occultations, when not a breath was stirring around; nor that these manifestations might be evoked by sexual influences, amid vast hosts instigated to combine therein and act in unison. He would rather attribute this phenomenon to an inherent tendency to emit their light from time to time, requiring a certain period of repose to recruit their powers; and when any thus surcharged felt intuitively inspired to take the initiative, the others—prompted to obey a corresponding impulse—followed such example in responsive sequence. He confirmed Mr. Gorham's remarks as to the luminous segments of the abdomen being diaphanous and recognizable, adding that their luminosity was retractile and of a quivering character, with alternations of a golden lustre, differing from the phases exhibited by fire-flies disporting in mid-air.

The Rev. A. E. Eaton remarked that while the subject of insect luminosity was under discussion, it might be interesting to mention that Dr. Hagen, in a paper published in the 'Transactions' of the Society for 1873 (p. 399), had stated that a species of *Ephemeridæ* (*Cænis dimidiata*) had been sent to him by Prof. Zaddach as a luminous insect, two males having been captured at night near Pillau "giving a small blue light."

Mr. Meldola stated that Mr. Thomas Belt, in his well-known 'Naturalist in Nicaragua' (p. 320), had expressed his belief that the luminosity of the *Lampyridæ* played the same part as the bright colours of many caterpillars, *i. e.*, that it served as a danger signal, warning nocturnal foes of the inedibility of the species of this family, which he had found to be generally distasteful to birds, &c. Their immunity from persecution is also testified by the fact that the species of this family are very frequently mimicked by other beetles, and even by insects of other orders.

Mr. C. M. Wakefield communicated a paper by Mr. R. W. Fereday, entitled "Description of a new Species of the Family *Leucanidæ* and a new Species of the Genus *Chlenias*."

Mr. A. G. Butler communicated a paper "On Synonyms of *Heterocerous* Lepidoptera."

Mr. C. O. Waterhouse communicated "Descriptions of *Cetoniidæ* and *Cerambycidæ* from Madagascar."

*New Part of 'Transactions.'*

Part V. of the 'Transactions' for 1879, containing index, title-page, &c., was on the table.