PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB.

(Continued from p. 170.)

Dr. G. Dimmock showed abnormally colored specimens of *Thyreus abbotii*, and made some remarks upon the causes which produced their abnormal coloration.

The annual report of the Secretary for the year 1883 reports the number of active members, 1 Jan. 1884, as 32, the number of associate members, 50. Four associate members, Messrs. Belfrage, Chambers, Glover, and LeConte, who were included in the list of members published last year, are dead. During the year 1883 the Club held 9 meetings; the average attendance was 5.2.

The annual report of the Treasurer states the deficit on volume 1 of *PSYCHE*, for which Mr. B. P. Mann advanced the cash, \$29.49. On volume 2 the deficiency, made up by an advance of cash by Dr. G. Dimmock, is \$252.66. The Club's account for the years 1880-1882, during which time *PSYCHE* (v. 3) was published by Dr. Dimmock, shows a surplus of \$32.59, which the Treasurer recommends to be added to the Permanent publication fund. On the account of volume 4 of *PSYCHE* there is a deficit, 1 Jan. 1884, of \$29.90, which is made up by advances by Mr. Mann. The principal of the Permanent publication fund is \$224.39, deposited in the Cambridge Savings Bank and drawing an annual interest of four per centum.

The Librarian reports almost exactly one thousand titles in the library, and an increased list of exchanges for *PSYCHE*.

8 Feb. 1884.—The 99th meeting of the Club was held at 19 Brattle St., Cambridge, 8 Feb. 1884. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. S. H. Scudder, at 7.50 p.m. Three members were present.

The Secretary announced the withdrawal from the Club of Mr. William Barnes, of Cambridge, and the letters from Messrs C. C. Beale, W. L. Devereaux, and J. G. Jack ac-

cepting membership. The Secretary called attention to the fund which it is proposed to raise in honor of the late Dr. Hermann Müller, of Lippstadt, Germany.

Dr. G. Dimmock called attention to some curious habits of *Forficula auricularia*, a specimen of which he had kept in confinement several months. These insects are omnivorous, but apparently prefer insects as food, eating their own species greedily. Altho to all appearances blind, except to the presence or absence of light, the specimen above mentioned captured fleas (*Pulex irritans*) with ease in a circular enclosure about 5 cm. in diameter. No notice was taken of a flea put in the enclosure until the flea actually touched the forficula, when the latter would rush after the flea, palpitating rapidly with the antennae, and thus keeping on his track. If the flea escaped from beneath the antennae of the forficula the latter would find him again in a moment, and the amusing chase would be renewed, to end in the sure seizure of the flea in the mouth-parts of the forficula. The forficula was a glutton and would often eat a large number of fleas or other insects in succession, at the end of his repast his abdomen being much distended.

Mr. S. H. Scudder exhibited a specimen and drawings of an arachnid from the coal-measures of Arkansas. Two years ago Karsch figured a similar form from the coal of Prussian Silesia, under the generic name *Anthracomartus*, and Kusta has just described another from carboniferous beds in Bohemia. This adds another to the many instances in which a new generic type of carboniferous arthropods had no sooner been announced as found on one continent than it was discovered on the other. The Arkansas species was obtained by Prof. T. S. Harvey of Fayetteville, and had not been in Mr. Scudder's hands a month before a second American species was found by Mr. R. D. Lacoe in the well-known bed of Mazon creek, Ill.

Dr. G. Dimmock showed an alcoholic specimen of the larva and pupa of *Lucanus dama*.