gin of the fore wings in the males of all these species to accommodate the sexual scale-pocket in the medio-submedian interspace is a striking feature. The text, which keeps excellent pace with the plates, has many points of interest and calls attention to some interesting cases of mimicry.

Mr. W. F. Kirby has just published with Van Voorst's successors a synonymic catalogue of dragon-flies living and fossil. It extends to 202 pp. 8vo. They are arranged systematically under families, subfamilies and divisions, the further subdivisions by Selys and others, legions and groups, being ignored. So too all subgenera are regarded as genera. This has at least simplified the author's work, but can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. A number of new generic terms are employed for preoccupied names and in a few cases radical changes occur, as when Agrion is made to replace Calopteryx (because Latreille had fixed the type as the *Libellula virgo* of Linné) and a new term Coenagrion employed for Agrion, carrying with it the subfamily name Coenagrioninae. Selys strenuously objects to this in the comptes-rendus of the Belgian entomological society. About 1800 nominal species are entered in 267 genera, besides a few in the appendix. 102 fossil species are catalogued separately. The work appears to be conscientiously done and will certainly be of as great an assistance to the students of Odonata as that of Lepidoptera, prepared by the same author, is to its votaries.

THE MARCH OF HYPERCHIRIA IO.—I have carefully watched a brood of *io* larvae in their marching, and have found the secret of their regularity. The leader spins a fine thread as he moves, and the larva next in order follows the thread, and spins one himself. If he follows the thread by feeling it at one side, instead of following *on* it, the thread which is spun by No. 2 lies parallel with that spun by No. 1, and usually each thread will be followed by a larva, when the wedge-shaped "order of march" will result—No. 1 ahead, No. 2 following just a trifle at one side, No. 3 and No. 4 side by side, No. 3 following the thread of No. 1, and No 4 that of No. 2; No. 5 will follow No. 3; No. 6 will often feel the two threads and march between them, when No. 7 will follow No. 4, and so the ranks will widen. The thread can be seen plainly with a lens, and the process watched. If a larva loses his way he feels for the thread, and seems able to tell, by its surface, in which direction the procession has gone, always following the right direction after a moment's careful feeling of the thread. *Caroline G. Soule.*

MORE DAMAGE BY WHITE ANTS IN NEW ENGLAND. — At a recent meeting of the Cambridge Entomological Club Mr. S. H. Scudder showed the work of white ants, *Termes flavipes,* on the wooden tubs containing plants at the Botanic Garden. This and some of the culprits were brought to him by Frederick A. Quinn, one of the employes of the Garden, who stated that they had destroyed some of the tree-ferns growing in such tubs. This shows that the white ants are there increasing in numbers and have become a real element of danger, for in 1885 Dr. Hagen reported in the Canadian entomologist (v. 17, 134–135) that "the earth in the hot-houses here in Cambridge is largely infested by white ants, but as far as I know no destruction of plants has been observed." Two years later the speaker pointed out (ibid., v. 19, 218) that geranium cuttings were attacked by white ants in the forcing houses attached to the Mt. Auburn cemetery; but here we find a more serious damage. On visiting the Garden Mr. Scudder was shown by the head gardener, Mr. Cameron, a plant almost completely destroyed in which the traces of their work were very apparent. The plant was *Cyathea insignis,* four or five feet high. One of the same kind had been destroyed before and thrown away. According to Mr. Cameron, the ants seemed to show a preference for the

long juicy stems of the fronds, to which they made their way through the trunk, while the latter was full of their droppings. The first outward sign of their attacks was seen in the drooping of the fronds. The inner sides of the wooden staves of the tubs were full of the irregular burrows of the white ants. Mr. Cameron also stated that a lot of cabbages in the vegetable garden attached to his house on the grounds were completely ruined by the attacks of these same white ants, as he found by inspection. Mr. Scudder recommended replacing all woodwork in contact with earth or stone by iron, and particularly the discarding of all wooden tubs; it would seem to be perfectly practicable to construct even the largest tubs of staves made of galvanized iron or some such metal.

AMPELOPSIS VEITCHII has been good hunting ground this year. I have found on one vine specimens of *Deidamia inscripta*, one; *Thyreus Abbotii*, several; *Everyx myron*, several; *Alypia octomaculata*, *Pyrophila pyramidoides*, both *very* abundant; *Spilosoma virginica*, few; *Hyphantria textor*, few; *Lophocampa caryae*, many; *L. tessellaris*, several; and *Cimbex ulmi*, many.

Caroline G. Soule.

A NEW SERIAL inconography is announced under the auspices of Mr. Paul Mabille and Vuillot of Paris, to be called *Novitates Lepidopterologicae*. These authors contemplate the issue of at least one hundred monthly parts of lexicon octavo size, each with eight pages of text and one colored plate, illustrating new and little known Lepidoptera. Only 150 copies are to be issued — a wrong to science —at the price of about three francs a part.

A SPECIMEN of *Vanessa milberti*, said to have been taken at Polegate, Sussex, England, was exhibited at the South London entomological and natural history society on October 9th.

DR. CARLOS BERG, formerly attached to the Museo publico of Buenos Aires under Burmeister, and well known for his notable contributions to the entomology of South America, has been appointed director of the Museo de Historia Natural of Montevideo, Uruguay, and is now removed to that city.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB.

13 January, 1888.—The 134th meeting was held at 61 Sacramento St. Mr. S. H. Scudder was chosen chairman.

The annual report of Mr. R. Hayward, the retiring secretary, was read and accepted. The report of Mr. B. Pickman Mann, the retiring treasurer, was also read and referred to the auditors. The retiring librarian, Dr. Geo. Dimmock, presented his report which was accepted.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. B. P. Mann for the use of his office on Follen St. as a storage place for the library of the Club since its organization.

A ballot for officers for 1888 then followed, which resulted in the election of the following gentlemen: President: William Trelease. Secretary: Roland Hayward. Treasurer: Samuel Henshaw. Librarian: George Dimmock. Members at large of Executive Committee: George Dimmock and Samuel H. Scudder.

On motion the thanks of the Club were voted to Mr. B. P. Mann for his long and faithful services as treasurer of the Club.

Mr. Scudder being obliged to leave, Mr. S. Henshaw was then chosen chairman.

On account of the absence of the president, Mr. J. H. Emerton, the reading of the annual address was postponed till another meeting.

Mr. C. W. Woodworth showed a new method for mounting small insects, which gave rise to some discussion; and Dr. G. Dimmock showed an apparatus for maintaining a constant temperature in raising insects.