REARING LEPIDOPTERA.

It will be gratifying to those entomologists who recognise the great importance of the knowledge of the early stages of insect life, to learn of the attention that is being given to this department of study by Mr. S. L. Elliot, of New York City. For the last few years, this gentleman has been indefatigable in his lepidopterological studies, and especially in larval collections and breeding from the egg. Fortunate in the ability to devote his entire time to the work, and actuated by an enthusiasm that scarcely recognises the need of any respite from the absorbing "labor of love"—very valuable and important results have already followed his labors. The life-histories of a number of rare species have been worked out. New species have been discovered, and so-called species shown to be simple varieties. Immense numbers of larvae have been collected and reared upon their food-plants, descriptions of the new forms, with the aid of Mr. Henry Edwards, have been taken, and thousands of perfect insects have been obtained for the cabinets of those who prize perfect forms. His success in carrying lepidoptera through their winter pupation, by means of a method and appliances devised by himself, has never, we believe, before been equalled. Several thousands of pupae have been carried through the past winter with scarcely any loss except that unavoidably resulting from parasitic attack. We know of no one else in the United States, who is rearing the larvae of lepidoptera so successfully and on so large a scale.

J. A. L.

BOOK NOTICES.

It is understood that Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, Ontario, has in preparation and has nearly completed a volume upon "The Insects of our Fruits and Fruit-trees." The great need of the information that this volume will present, has long been felt, and it is very gratifying to know that the want is soon to be supplied. The larger portion of it is already in type. Much labor has been bestowed upon its preparation to render it as complete as possible and perfectly reliable. It will make a volume, as we learn from the author, of nearly 450 pages. Almost every species noticed will be illustrated, requiring for the purpose over 400 figures. It will be issued by the well known publishing-house of Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, in their best style, and will be offered to the public at a price (probably $3) that will bring it within the reach of all who need it. From the distinguished ability of the author, his familiarity with fruit-culture, and the special efforts made by him to render the volume all that it should be, we are confident that it will prove to be a standard work upon the subject of which it treats, and that it cannot fail of commanding an extensive sale.

J. A. L.

[Mr. Saunders' book has been issued since the above notice was written.]

The third part of the third volume of the Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, which came to hand in April, is devoted to the memory of Joseph
Duncan Putnam, who was foremost among the members of that society in securing for it a scientific standing as a publishing society. Besides the proceedings of the meeting held in Mr. Putnam's memory, the letters sent to his bereaved relatives by his scientific associates, and the resolutions passed by several scientific societies upon hearing of his death, Prof. Herbert Osborn, with the assistance of Dr. H. A. Hagen and others, has prepared for publication the notes upon and figures of American sofujgidæ, which Mr. Putnam had made, and which now form an interesting contribution to the study of a heretofore neglected family of American arthropoda.

To this paper is added a bibliography of the sofujgidæ, compiled from Mr. Putnam's by Miss Julia E. Sanders. This bibliography comprises 224 titles, with notes, and is arranged in chronological order.

Cambridge, Mass., 14 April 1883.

A paper with the title Rovavassati lâfoâk (Journal of entomology) has lately made its appearance in Pesth, Hungary. It is, however, a mistake to bury interesting entomological matter in pages printed in a language which few outside of Hungary can read.

Cambridge Entomological Club.

9 March 1883.—The 91st meeting of the Club was held at 19 Brattle Square, Cambridge, 9 March 1883, at 8 p. m. In the absence of the President, Mr. S: Henshaw was chosen Chairman. Seven persons (five of whom were members) were present.

The additions to the library of the Club were announced by the Librarian.

Mr. G: Dimmock read a paper on "The scales of coleoptera," including in the paper observations in regard to the scales of other insects. Microscopical preparations and figures of many forms of scales were shown. [The paper is now appearing with illustrations, in Psyche.]

Mr. S: H. Scudder exhibited a figure, by Brongniart, of a very large fossil walking-stick, described under the name of Titanophasma fayoli.

Mr. S: H. Scudder showed a few photographs of regions in Colorado where fossil insects had been found.

Linnean Society of London.

6 Feb. 1883. . . A paper was read "On the pairing of Tegenaria guyonii and description of certain organs in the male abdominal sexual region," by J. Maule Campbell. Two cases were related in which during confinement the males killed the females after union and an instance was also given of an attempt to impregnate an immature female which was also destroyed by the male. In neither case could hunger have been the cause of the attack. The writer explained these occurrences and also the accounts of females destroying males after union on the ground "That those instincts which are habitually practised throughout the far greater portion of the life of the species, and on which its existence is dependent would scarcely be suspended for a longer period than necessary for the sexual union." Some of the habits of spiders and especially of this species were mentioned as being on these sexual conflicts, and the specific benefits which would arise from them were referred to. The paper concluded by a note on some glands situated on the convexity of the abdominal sexual region. The ducts, considerably convoluted, open through transparent tubular spines which are arranged transversely to the axis of the body of the spider. These organs are supposed by Mr. Campbell to be a kind of spinning organ. Two papilla-like processes below the opening of the genital sinus were also described. — Zool. anzeiger, 5 March 1883, jahrg. 6, p. 127-128.