ENTOMOLOGICAL ITEMS.

The Natural history society at Springfield, Mass., proposes to begin an insect collection.

M. Adrien Dollfus, the editor of the 'Feuille des jeunes naturalistes,' at 35, rue Pierre-Charron, Paris, France, desires to exchange European oniscida for American species.

The January number of the American college directory, published at St. Louis, Mo., contains a portrait of Dr. C. V. Riley, of Washington, D. C., with a brief notice of his life.

The Dollfus prize of the French entomological society is awarded, for the year 1883, to M. Ernest André, for his work entitled "Spécies des formicides d'Europe et des pays limitrophes."

Dr. Grassi has found that flies fed with materials which contain eggs of worms leave these eggs in their excrement, and that consequently meat which was exposed to the visits of the flies could help in distributing parasites.

In the November session of the zoological section of the Westfälischer provincial-verein für wissenschaft und kunst, Mr. Putt showed the crop of a pheasant which was full of larvae, about 15 millimetres long, belonging to some species of diptera. There were 411 larvae in the crop.

It is announced that the Russian grand-duke Nikolai Michailowitch, eldest son of grand-duke Michail, intends to issue in parts a fine work under the title "Mémoires lépidoptérologiques," the basis for which will be his own large collection of lepidoptera, rich in species which he collected in the Caucasus.

We learn from the Entomologist's monthly magazine that the Ray society has acquired the late Mr. William Buckler's drawings of the larvae of British macrolepidoptera, together with the voluminous manuscript which accompanies them, and they will probably form the subject for three or four volumes of the society's publications.

Dr. H. A. Hagen, in a letter to Science for 11 April 1884, shows that the Hessian fly was known by that name in the United States before the Revolution. Quotations are given from the minutes of the American philosophical society of Philadelphia, as early as 18 May 1768, where the committee on husbandry was "to consider whether any method can befallen upon for preventing the damage done to wheat by the Hessian fly."

In a brief summary of the European species of lepidoptera with antrous or subapterous females, by Dr. R. C. R. Jordan, in the Entomologist's monthly magazine for March 1884, it is shown that wingless lepidoptera exist in the following families: heterogynidae, arctiidae, hebrididae, psychidae (all species), lipavidae, noctuidae (one species, Ulothrixia hirta), geometridae, pyralidae (part of the females of Accentropus niveus, which oviposit under water), tortricidae, limacidae, and tancyporidae.

Dr. Layet, of Bordeaux, has studied an eruptive disease to which workers in a large vanilla warehouse in that place are subject, and found that the disease is caused by a little insect (Acarus) which is found upon the outer end of the vanilla capsules. The insect does not bore into the skin, but causes the irritation by contact, aided perhaps by the mechanical action of acicular crystals which are upon the outside of the capsules.

The poisonous properties of carbon disulphide [CS₂] have been investigated by a number of doctors in California. The results show that continued breathing of carbon disulphide produces derangement. As is well known, carbon disulphide has been extensively used in the wine-producing districts of California against phylloxera, and a number of workmen, who were engaged in the wine districts, have become insane. - Deutsch-amer. apoth.-zeitung, 15 Feb. 1884, p. 733.

The numero of the Entomologist for March 1884 contains a note entitled "Description of a Pieris new to science." - Pieris spilleri, mili. By A. J. Spiller," in which Mr. Spiller
writes "As the insect is not in the Cape or British museum collections, and is unknown to collectors of exotic insects who have examined it, and as Dr. Staudinger has pronounced it to be a new and interesting species, I beg therefore to name it after myself."

Mr. Spiller may be congratulated on the delicacy of the compliment he has received in having the species thus named after him.—G. D.

Mr. J. J. Walker, writing, in the Entomologist's monthly magazine for March 1884, of Pitcairn Island, that curious little inhabited island in the Pacific near Tahiti, which, although only two and a quarter miles long by less than one mile wide, rises to a height of 1000 feet above the sea, says: "No butterfly is apparently found on the island, and I saw only a few common Tahitian moths; but I found, for the first time, the large yellow-striped green larva of Choerocampa erotes on the 'Nono' plant, and a good many living pupae of Sphynx convolvuli (equal in size to English specimens) were brought to me, having been found in the patches of sweet potatoes, of which a supply was then being dug up for the ship. Four species of coleoptera (a Tonicus?, two cossonid weevils, and a rhizophagoid?) occurred rarely."

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

The regular meetings of the Cambridge Entomological Club will be held at 7.45 p.m., on the days following:—

9 Nov. " 11 Apr. "
14 Dec. " 9 May "
11 Jan. 1884. 13 June "
8 Feb. "

G. DIMMOCOK, Secretary.

The New York Entomological Club meets twice monthly, except in June, July and August, but no special date is fixed for each meeting.

HENRY EDWARDS, Secretary.

The regular meetings of the Entomological Section of the Boston Society of Natural History will be held at N. W. corner of Berkeley and Boylston Sts., Boston, Mass. at 7.45 p.m., on the days following:—

24 Oct. 1883. 27 Feb. 1884.
28 Nov. " 26 Mar. "
26 Dec. " 23 Apr. "
23 Jan. 1884. 28 May "

EDWARD BURGESS, Secretary.

The regular meetings of the Entomological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, Pa., will be held at S. W. corner of 19th and Race Sts., on the days following:—

9 Nov. " 11 Apr. "
14 Dec. " 9 May "
11 Jan. 1884. 13 June "
8 Feb. "

JAMES H. RIDINGS, Recorder.

The semi-annual meetings of the American Entomological Society will be held at S. W. corner of 19th and Race Sts., Philadelphia, Pa., on the days following:—

10 Dec. 1883. 9 June 1884.

JAMES H. RIDINGS, Recording Secretary.

The regular monthly meetings of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario, will be held at Montreal, Que., Canada, on the days following:—

2 Oct. 1883. 5 Feb. 1884.
6 Nov. " 4 Mar. "
4 Dec. " 1 Apr. "
8 Jan. 1884. 6 May "

G. J. BOWLES, Secretary.

The monthly meetings of the Brooklyn Entomological Society will be held in the rooms of Wright's Business College, Broadway, corner of Fourth Street, Brooklyn, E. D., the last Saturday of each month except July and August.

F. G. SCHAUPP, Secretary.