

on oak buds, the oviposition observed, and the plants isolated. The galls originating from them were entirely different from those galls out of which *N. fumipennis* was raised. By further growth they proved to be the well known galls of *Spathogaster albipes*, which species was raised from them in due time. These two Cynips belong to two different genera, and differ in size; *Neuroterus*, the winter form, is agamous, only females known, and the receptaculum seminis was always empty; the eggs are laid deep in the buds. *Spathogaster*, the summer form, is bisexual, males and females in regular proportion and copulating; the receptaculum seminis of the egg-laying females being always filled with spermatozoa. The eggs are laid on the leaves. To complete the cycles, *Spathogaster* galls carefully confined were raised and gave in due time *Neuroterus*. The experiment was made repeatedly on a large scale and with excellent precautions, so that no doubt is possible. Now as the fact is known, it is rather remarkable that it was not sooner discovered, as it is entirely impossible for *Spathogaster* and for *Neuroterus* to produce the galls out of which they are always raised. *Spathogaster* possesses a short and somewhat degraded ovipositor, just fit to injure the superficies of a leaf and to lay the egg; *Neuroterus* possesses a long, bent and complicated ovipositor, able to perform the rather difficult act of entering the bud and laying the eggs in the basis of the bud, but would be scarcely able to injure the superficies of a leaf in the same manner as *Spathogaster*. I think this admirable discovery is of the greatest importance for further observations. If we find again a species with an ovipositor not fit to make the galls of the species, we are justified in presuming a similar alternating generation with some other species.

The difficult question how the eggs of Cynips are able to pass through the comparatively small ovipositor is described with much detail and acumen. The observation was only possible by the ingenious device of chloroforming the insects in the act of oviposition, and making an anatomical investigation of the parts. By repeating the observation many times in different stages of the act, a full series of observations, one completing the other, gave a clear and satisfactory result, and at the same time the place was ascertained in which the egg was laid. A large number of other interesting details concerning the formation, structure and the growth of the galls, are given, which must be studied in the original paper. I may only add the surprising fact of the continuous rotation of the embryo in the egg, till it is hatched. The rotation is not