

and unmistakeably British. A specimen caught in Kent which would fetch 2*l.* would not be worth 2*s.* if caught in Normandy. I satirised this practice several years since in the 'Entomologist's' Weekly Intelligence' (vol. v. and 1858, articles 'Jeddo' and 'Insularity'), but it is yet far from extinct."

Perfectly concurring in Mr. Stainton's observations in the last paragraph, I would, however, add, that there are purposes for which a local or geological collection distinct from the general one may be of great use, and such a collection would be much impaired by the introduction of *stray foreign specimens*. In a local museum, a *separate room* devoted exclusively to the productions of the locality is very instructive with reference to the history of that locality, and I have seen several such spoiled by the admission of exotic specimens, giving the visitor false impressions, which it takes time to remove. But it is never from such an exclusive collection that the fauna or flora of the district can be satisfactorily worked out, or that any branch of Zoology or Botany can be successfully taught.

Mr. Stainton adds: "It has been suggested to me that those who have critically studied the distinctions between closely allied species have rarely the time to work out in addition their geographical range, and that those who might work up the latter subject might fail in their good intentions for want of a proper knowledge of species." Upon this I would observe that, in the due appreciation of a species of its limits and connections, its geographical range and the various forms it assumes in different parts of its area are an essential element; and it appears to me that the neglect of this and other general characters is one reason why many able naturalists, who have devoted their lives to the critical distinction of races of the lowest grades unduly raised to the rank of species, have really contributed so little to any science but that of sorting and naming collections. On the other hand, the study of geographical range without a proper knowledge of species is little more than pure speculation. Division of labour carried too far tends to narrow the mind, and rather to delay than advance the healthy progress of science.

Mr. Stainton informs me that "there has just appeared a monograph of the Ephemeridæ, by the Rev. A. E. Eaton (Trans. Entom. Soc., 1871), treating of those insects throughout the globe; and when any species are noticed which occur in this country, their entire geographical range is noticed. It is altogether a valuable paper, on account of the thoroughness with which it seems to be done."—*Nature*, July 6, 1871.