

the hidden seventh and eighth ventral segments of the males of the different species. These two segments are called by Franklin the inner and outer spathæ, a term to discover the meaning of which a new reader anxious to determine specimens may spend a minute or two.

Painstaking monographs of a small group such as this—Swenk's *Bee Genus Colletes* may be cited as another though much smaller example—in which structure is used as the basis of specific distinction and careful descriptions are freely supplemented by good drawings, published without either undue haste or delay, constitute construction work of the best kind, and entomologists must accord Dr. Franklin a hearty vote of thanks for the results of several years of patient labour. Who will treat in a similar manner other groups of bees and wasps now calling for revision, and thus help to reduce the heaps of half-worked ore that have accumulated in hymenopterology to ingots of bright metal? Careful investigators who undertake such work should receive the liberal support of collectors and curators. But to follow the suggestion of a speaker at the recent Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Cleveland, who proposed that a committee should be formed to apportion to each scientific investigator his task, would be to rob such work of its main attraction.

Dr. Franklin hopes at a later date to present a further paper on the Bombidæ, dealing chiefly with habits and phylogeny. This will be eagerly looked for.

F. W. L. S.

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We regret to learn that PROFESSOR JOHN HENRY COMSTOCK, who has been for thirty-nine years instructor and professor of Entomology at Cornell University, and the author of various textbooks and works on the subject, will retire from duty at the end of the present academic year. His many friends throughout America join in wishing him many years of rest from educational duties, while no doubt he will continue his scientific work.

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