

No doubt, big prices have been paid, especially long ago when travel was not so easy as it is now. A very interesting tale is that of the first collector who landed in the Solomon Islands and lived six weeks in the tree tops to avoid the head hunters. We hope his grist fetched a big price and that for his glorious new green and gold *Ornithoptera* a sum in four figures was given. We know that the first *Drurya antimachus* (or perhaps it was not even the type) was bought by a Scotchman for \$1,500, but we do not know how much of this went to the explorer who braved the malarial jungle. For a Brooklyn collection \$2,000 was once paid, there being little of value except the singleton *Actias Jehovah*, eccentrically named by Strecker. An aberrant *Papilio* was once sought from Mr. Neumogen by a Russian Prince for \$1,000, but its like can now be bought from a dealer for \$25. Girdling the world is making it smaller. Mr. Say received \$300 for his *Amblychila cylindriciformis*. It was thirty years before a second specimen was unearthed. That fetched \$50. To-day fifty cents is a fair price. Not many years ago a collector in New Jersey had in his boxes two aberrants of common *Papilio*. A dealer gave him \$25 for both and resold them for about \$300 each. The first three specimens of *Sphinx frankii*, caught not so many years ago, averaged nearly \$300 apiece. Such instances can be multiplied many times.

As for making a living by collecting, a few exceptions prove the rule of its futility. An enterprising young woman in the far west, taught by her father, a veteran collector, caught both place and psychological moment. She sold her season's catch from an untraveled mountain pass for a price which sent her through college. But how many others could get a tenth as much? Could any half-trained collector get a cent a piece for a season's catch, unless from some very remote place? A collector well trained in beetle study, whose home territory is in the mountains seldom traveled, writes to me that with constant labour he can hardly average \$5 a week.

A favorite way of collecting is to get "grubstaked." Some naturalist wants to visit some rare locality and collects funds from his friends, each contributor to take pay in "results," one taking beetles, another Orthoptera, etc. Of a score of such trips