

VARIA FROM *Petites Nouvelles*.—The collections of Coleoptera (Longicorns and Anthribidæ) of the learned author of Geneva, Prof. Lacordaire, now form a part of the Museum at Brussels.—The numerous collection of Curculionidæ of M. A. Deyrolle is now the property of the Philadelphia Museum. However, the types of Lacordaire, A. Deyrolle, M. Jekel, etc., which are deposited in this collection, as well as of the numerous series of species which compose it, will be placed by M. Agassiz at the disposition of Entomologists in cases of serious need. [Query by Ed. C. E.:—Is this collection in the Museum of Comp. Zool. at Cambridge, Mass., or in that of one of the Societies at Philadelphia? Perhaps some American Entomologist can inform us.]—During the siege of Paris, Dr. Boisduval, although much engaged every day in attending the sick and wounded, nevertheless continued his work upon the Sphinges; he laboured ardently upon it during the whole continuance of the siege, in spite of the shells and projectiles which exploded all round his house, and fell upon the Val-de-grace and the Pantheon, the tremendous concussion of which shattered the glass of his cabinets! This work, now completed, will fill up one of the gaps in the *Suites a Buffon*, and will form the fourth volume of the Natural History of Lepidoptera. It will include the Sphinges, Castnidæ and Agaristidæ, and will be published on the same plan as the first volume, which treats of Papilios, Pierides, etc. The learned doctor intends to continue his work till he completes the remaining volumes.

ENTOMOLOGY.—Mr. Roland Trimen, F.L.S., F.Z.S., read a note on a curious South African grasshopper, *Trachypetra busfo*, White, which mimics with much precision the appearance of the stones among which it lives.

He commenced by observing that some tendency existed to separate too widely those cases of mimicry where one animal imitated another from those in which an animal closely resembled either some part of a plant or some inorganic object; and expressed the opinion that these two sets of cases were wholly one in kind, the evident object in all being the protection of the imitator.

Describing a visit paid to the vicinity of Grahamstown in search of this insect, he observed that it was a work of considerable difficulty to distinguish the grasshoppers from the stones, and he was engaged for half an hour in careful search over a known station of the species before discovering an example. He noted the further most interesting fact, that, in certain spots (often only a few square yards in extent) where the stones lying on the ground were darker, lighter, or more mottled than those generally prevalent, the *Trachypetra* found among such stones varied similarly from the ordinary dull ferruginous-brown colouring in imitation of them.