

## JOCULAR ENTOMOLOGY.

The action of our friends who publish *Entomological News*, in putting on the title-page of that excellent journal the figure of an insect, with the legend "*Ignotus ænigmaticus*, Slosson," creates a situation hitherto unknown in entomology.

In Mrs. Slosson's delightful article on "A Coleopterous Conundrum," in the *CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST* for July, 1903, she asks this question: "Shall I ever find more specimens of what I have sometimes, in chat with friends, called *Ignotus ænigmaticus*? I trow not." This is the sole basis for the application of the name, as fully admitted in the *January News*.

If we adopt the principle upon which the *News* acts, it will afford great relief to those who have been labouring in descriptive entomology for lo! these many years. It is evident that our pains have been wholly unnecessary. Chatting with our friends, we need only mention any Latinized jingle that occurs to us under the inspiration of the moment; then let this leak into print, and all is accomplished.

We may expect that the general adoption of this method will bring about a rapid increase of new genera and species. Now that it is unnecessary to go through the tedious process of describing, figuring, comparing and writing out, no one need hesitate to enter the field. It is highly probable that some of us name insects in our sleep, and never knew it before. Let us merely employ an amanuensis to sit by and take down our mutterings, after a long evening spent in the old-fashioned sort of entomological labour, and doubtless in the morning we shall be rewarded by a fine list of new genera and species, some of which will perhaps be so interesting as to subsequently adorn the covers of entomological journals.

One of my friends has an infant son, two years old, who has already named several new genera and species. His chat is not very fluent, but his names are not preoccupied, and compare very well in appropriateness with the one given above. Some of the endings look rather unlike old-fashioned Latin, but this is easily cured. If I were to enumerate some of his appellatives, there is no reason to doubt that they would stand hereafter as valid names for the species to which he has applied them. I refrain from giving them publicity, as I think his father would like to do it.

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