

many species, such as house-flies and mosquitoes, in propagating diseases, or in otherwise injuriously affecting the welfare of mankind. Mr. Metcalfe described experiments made in Toronto by Dr. Brodie in rearing species of *Meloe*, and the egg-laying habits of these beetles. Mr. Halkett asked whether any members of the *Hydrocampidæ*, whose larvæ are aquatic, occur at Ottawa, and in reply Dr. Fletcher stated that two species of these moths were found but not commonly. He also called attention to similar habits of the larva of *Azama obliquata*, which bores in the stems of the Cat-tail Flag (*Typha*) and can swim from one plant to another; the breathing spiracles being so high up as to be above the surface of the water. Mr. Gibson read some portions of a paper which he is preparing upon the Canadian species of the genus *Apantesis* (of Arctian moths) with special reference to the larvæ. Two cases were exhibited, containing representatives, generally in good series, of nearly all the recorded Canadian species, showing interesting affinities and variations. Dr. Fletcher exhibited a fine ichneumon fly, *Megaplectes Blakei*, from Cape Breton. This genus of the *Cryptidæ* is distinguished readily by the swollen triangular second joint of the maxillary palpi. The species in question occurs at Ottawa, and seems to be widely distributed in Canada and the United States. Mr. Young showed some living beetles which he had recently collected under bark, etc., and Mr. Harrington exhibited a series of his *Buprestidæ*.

The fourth meeting was held at Dr. Fletcher's house on Thursday, Feb. 26th, when a paper was read by Mr. MacLaughlin on the "Classification of the Odonata," or dragonflies. This paper was illustrated by a series of species representative of the different groups and of the principal genera. Mr. Halkett exhibited the nymph-case of a large species collected by him at Spanish River, and which was not recognized by any of the members present. The methods of collecting and preserving dragonflies were discussed and Mr. Harrington mentioned that in Japan, where these insects are very numerous, he had observed the children catching them quite easily by means of a slender bamboo tipped with a little rice-glue. Mr. Metcalfe read some observations on the "Day Flight of the Male of *Callosamia Promethea*," which commenced about 4 p.m., while the females were only seen at