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*(Continued from page 265.)*

Mr. Osborn followed with a paper upon

HONEY-BEE OR HOUSE-FLY.

BY HERBERT OSBORN.

Ever since entomologists have classified insects and attempted to assign a relative rank to different members of the class, the honey-bee has had the distinction of standing at the head of the list, has been the crowning point, the apex of an immense pyramid of inferior forms.

That so useful a member of the insect class should occupy this exalted position has seemed most appropriate, and that the reign of the honey-bee has had universal sanction is proven by the fact that it has so long held undisputed possession of the throne.

In recent times, however, ruthless hands are raised in treasonable attacks upon Queen Apis; and whom do they propose to crown instead? No less an arrant disturber than the ubiquitous, omnipresent, insolent fly. Down with Queen Apis!! Up with King Musca!! How does that sound?

All this is proposed by a young man, Prof. Aldrich, who makes flies his especial pets, and he backs himself up with such authority as Prof. Hyatt and Miss Arms, and is seconded by Prof. Townsend. The worst of it is that these revolutionists seem to have the logic of the situation. To be sure, it is suggested that the sheep-tick may, in the ultimate analysis of the scheme, be the enthroned insect, but we fear that all other claimants will be downed by the house-fly. What a travesty on beneficent evolution, to produce this pestiferous plague—the most unmanageable rascal afloat—as its most finished piece of insect handiwork. Can nothing be done to avert such a calamity? Have we no talented evolutionist who can discover some series of relationship to prove that Musca lacks