

them, and where they are accessible to the student for comparison and study. Most of these are types of Loew and Osten Sacken, or their determinations.

The remarks of the author on synonymy, nomenclature and priority, seem to me to be most excellent and worthy of serious consideration. In an extended discussion of the merits of the descriptions of Diptera of the late Mr. Walker of the British Museum, he characterizes them as so extremely superficial—descriptive rather of the specimen than of the species, that in his opinion, they should be entitled to no claim for priority whenever they cannot be positively identified without an examination of the type specimen. Thus, of twenty-six species of *Dolichopus* described by him, not a single one could be recognized. The question suggests itself, to what extent might this rule be extended to descriptions in the other orders of insects by this author, and in general, to the writings of other authors.

In considering the number of Diptera, Osten Sacken believes, that rejecting those descriptions which will probably prove irre recognizable, the number of described Diptera of North America, north of Mexico, will hardly reach 2,500; that the undescribed material at present in collections, if worked up, would perhaps double the number; and that when the long neglected order shall have received the attention given to the Coleoptera, it will equal if not exceed the latter, numerically.

Reference at the present to studies in the Diptera, naturally suggests the great loss which Dipterology has sustained in the recent death—in April last—of the distinguished Prussian Dipterist, Dr. H. Loew, long known as one of the most eminent cultivators of this branch of Entomology. During the last twenty years he has been engaged in the study of North American Diptera, and at the request of the Smithsonian Institution he has prepared a series of monographs, three volumes of which (Parts i., ii. and iv.) have been published by that Institution. While his removal from his work at this stage of its progress, cannot but be deeply deplored, there is a consolation to be found in the knowledge that it is not to be wholly arrested, but that a worthy collaborator—Baron Osten Sacken—remains to conduct it to a completion, we hope, of the plan proposed.

The series of *Dimmock's Special Bibliographies*, now being published at Cambridge, Mass., will prove to be of eminent service to the student who desires to avail himself of the literature of our insects, so widely