

the soda, and was discharged into the solution, which it visibly coloured, and he saw no reason why, if a sufficient number of individuals were experimented upon, the colour should not be collected and utilised. *Colias Edusa* and *Hyale*, *Danais Chrysippus* and *Vanessa urticae*, were deprived of their natural colours in the same manner. Mr. Butler had experimented upon *G. rhamni* (dyed blue), *C. Edusa* and *Hyale*, *Papilio Demoleus*, *Lycaena Corydon*, *Danais Chrysippus*, *Argynnis Adippe* and *Aglaia*, *Vanessa urticae*, *Lipinephete Janira*, *Arctia caja* and *villica*. The most successful results were obtained with *Danais Chrysippus*, deprived of its natural colours and dyed blue, which colour only entered certain scales, whereas magenta, being a faster dye, entered all: and *V. urticae*, dyed blue in one case, and magenta in another; the latter resembled a typical South-African *Fumonia*, the former a melanitic variety of the same species. The peculiarity in these specimens consisted in certain parts of the wings not taking the dye, leading to the conclusion that the scales are more perfectly closed in these parts.

Mr. Meldola (who was present as a visitor) remarked that he had also made experiments with alkalis; the yellow of *G. rhamni* being removed by soda, and precipitated by the addition of an acid. He possessed an example of *Vanessa Io* altered to deep mahogany-colour by exposure to the fumes of ammonia.

Mr. Bicknell exhibited a number of examples of *Gonopteryx rhamni*, upon which he had experimented with cyanide of potassium, as suggested at the last meeting. The yellow was changed to orange-red in the parts exposed to the cyanide.

Mr. F. Smith stated that he had seen a number of wasps that had been killed by cyanide of potassium, and which, in consequence, were changed to vermilion.

The hope was expressed that these interesting experiments would not be taken advantage of by unscrupulous persons, in consequence of the prevailing disposition to pay high prices for varieties of common Lepidoptera.—THE ZOOLOGIST.

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