

worked field there, and plenty of new forms. About 200 species (American) are thus far described. Of spiders a somewhat larger number.

Mr. Emerton said there were some 400 described species, and that naturalists generally had no idea what a very great variety of spiders really existed.

Mr. Mann read a letter from O. S. Westcott, of Maywood, Ill., suggesting the formation of a stock company for the purpose of publishing an American entomological journal, and after a lengthy discussion the question was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Mann, Osborn, Horn, Aaron and Smith.

Prof. Fernald presented an invitation from the Agassiz Association, received by him, inviting the members to be present at a lecture by Dr. McCook, in Franklin Institute this evening. This invitation was accepted by the Club.

Prof. Fernald then asked for the opinions of the members on the following points:—

1. Where a name has once been published by an author, shall we change the mode of spelling to one more consistent with the derivation? e. g., Treitschke, Schmet. viii., established the genus *Cochylis*. Shall we adopt his spelling, or the more correct *Conchylis*?

Dr. Horn said he would not change it; that generic names are mere aggregations of letters representing a living thing, and that at least one well known entomologist habitually formed generic names by coining words without any meaning whatever, merely with a Grecian sound, and generally euphonious. If such names were accepted, so should misspelled names be. Some purists would make every name correspond with its origin, and it had been proposed to change the well known and universally accepted term, *Bembidium*, into *Bembicidium*; this was displaying learning without adding to knowledge.

Mr. Mann agreed with Dr. Horn. Dr. McCook thought a manifest error might be corrected, but would not make the correction if thereby an author's right of priority were destroyed, i. e., if the name thus changed were pre-occupied at the time it was originally proposed.

2. When an author once publishes a name which is manifestly incorrect in orthography, and in a later work corrects his own error, shall we adopt his correction? e. g., Treitschke published the genus *Pendina*, but later corrects it to *Penthina*.