

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,—

Mr. Behrens (*p. 200, Vol. 8*) writes: "Mr. V. T. Chambers is satisfied to get Tineidæ dead and dry, and even untouched by a pin." "Satisfied" in this connection is almost too strong a word, and may be misleading. So a distinguished Lepidopterist of Europe has made an objection to my work on the ground that I only keep specimens packed in cotton, and that, unpacking them, I place them under a microscope and prepare my descriptions from the appearances thus presented. This statement, like the preceding by Mr. Behrens, comes from a misapprehension of the facts. I prefer always to have some of my specimens on pins and some of them with the wings spread. It is best to study them pinned and not pinned, spread and not spread. When the opportunity offers, I prefer in the first place to observe them closely alive, before I take them, and when the quantity of material suffices, I also examine them both spread and not spread after they are dead, with the eye, a simple lens, or a compound microscope, according to circumstances. Indeed, in by far the greater number of new species described by me, the insects have been examined not only in the conditions above mentioned, but have also been dissected; as is evident not only from the published accounts of the neurulation of the wings, but much more by the multitude of drawings of the neurulation now in my possession. All of my Tineina from Texas and from Canada, and nearly all that I have received from Miss Murtfeldt, from St. Louis, have come pinned and spread. Mr. Behrens wrote to me that he preferred not to undertake the task of pinning these little things, and besides he had not time, and I replied that I would be glad to get them packed in cotton without pinning; and all of his specimens have been sent in this way. I have also received a few specimens from one or two other Entomological friends in the same condition. This mode, however, does not answer for sending Tineina for any considerable distance. The antennæ, palpi and tufts of scales on the wings or elsewhere are almost invariably rubbed off, and the insect is otherwise worn and denuded, so that I have not attempted to describe one specimen in ten that has been received in this condition. This plan, or rather a modification of it, answers better for preserving Micros taken at home, and which do not have to be shipped. Of the greater number of my Tineina I have not attempted the preservation of many specimens at a time. Making but few exchanges, I have kept but very few for that pur-