

will, of necessity, cause some change and shifting of names. I am led to say further, that no students have travelled so much to make comparisons as have the Americans. Grote, Fernald, Hulst and others, as well as myself, have visited all the European collections — some of us more than once — and have spent dollars, pounds, francs and marks in painful number to gain that broad knowledge for which we are now dubbed "pseudo-savants."

Now, I doubt whether I would have imposed all this upon the readers of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST except as a sort of introduction to another point, which the following quotation from a correspondent's letter will make clear: "In sending specimens to be determined in the customary way (the namer to have the privilege of retaining any specimens he may desire), if I send a species *new to our fauna*, does custom require its return to the sender, or is the recipient to keep, name and describe it — i. e., *steal* it boldly?" The italics are as in the original.

Now, how many persons who have asked that same question, and who have found fault with the answer, ever really understand what they are asking when they send in a box of insects numbering anywhere from 25 to 250 specimens for determination to one who is under no sort of obligation to do it?

First, they draw upon a store of knowledge that has been acquired by over twenty years of study; they demand the time necessary to make comparisons, to unpack, repack, often the replacement of a defective outer box or a new cover; very often the payment of return postage, almost always the payment of correspondence postage. Second, they often expect comments or information concerning the species, its rarity, value, larva or its life-history, and other matters too numerous to mention.

And in return for all this, what do they offer? In many cases nothing at all; but rather claim it as a right; in other cases, permission to retain such as they have in duplicate!

I have frequently spent a solid half day naming a box of specimens in which there was not a single example that was of use to me! I need hardly say that I could have found more profitable employment for my time. In Noctuids, the collection under my charge at New Brunswick is, perhaps excepting that of the U. S. National Museum, the most complete in the country. Of the Eastern and Central U. S. species, not a dozen are lacking; but that dozen I need badly. Once or twice each year, out of hundreds of species that pass through my hands, I find one