

Denmark and Southern Scandanavia nearly all the species are much darker than usual. Surrounding this region is a wide circle including Britain and the Swiss Alps, in which the species are less extensively darkened. Outside this circle, for example, the Pyrenees and Northern Scandanavia, there is hardly any tendency to melanism. A colour scheme common to Europe and America is dull yellow with a black inter-alar band. The dominating pattern in North America is pale greenish yellow with a broad black tail, exemplified in *Bombus vagans*, *perplexus* and *impatiens*. Another North American pattern is pale yellow with a black band across the thorax and a red band across the abdomen. These instances of regional convergence are sometimes stronger in the queen than in the male, and Mr. Sladen suggested that this might be because the queen probably needs to display warning colours more than the male on account of a period in the life cycle of the bumble bee, lasting about a month, in which the existence of the race depends upon a small band of slow-flying, heavily-laden queens that would easily fall a prey to any bird that might care to pursue them. Mr. R. I. Pocock, Curator of the London "Zoo", found that bumble bees were distinctly distasteful to birds.

Dr. Hewitt brought forward a recently published monograph, by Dr. F. W. Cragg, of the Indian Medical Service, on the comparative anatomy of the proboscis in the blood-sucking flies, in which the author shows that these flies can be arranged in a series commencing with those flies which are blood-suckers by habit but have no biting mouth parts, namely, certain species of *Musca*, and passing on through those which are provided with more or less efficient biting organs, such as *Philaematomyia* and *Hæmatobia*, to those forms, such as *Stomoxys* and *Glossina*, which have entirely lost the characteristic structure of the labella by means of which the non-biting flies absorb nourishment. The probable evolution of the blood-sucking muscidae from the non-blood-sucking forms has a possible bearing on the theory concerning the origin of the Haemoflagellates.

Dr. Hewitt also called the attention of the members to Dr. Graham-Smith's recent book on "Flies and Disease" in which he brings forward a greater amount of evidence, chiefly original, in regard to the dissemination of bacteria than has hitherto been submitted by any investigator in the field.

Mr. Harrington showed specimens of the Cotton Boll Weevil, and referred to the enormous damage done by this insect in the Southern States. Dr. Hewitt said that at the recent Meeting of the Entomological Society of America at Atlanta, Dr. Hinds had read a most interesting paper in which he showed