

## ON SOME OF THE COLLECTIONS IN ENGLAND AND THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

BY GAMBLE GEDDES, TORONTO.

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. President and gentlemen, to read to you some notes upon the collections I had the privilege of examining during a stay of some months on the continent and three weeks in London, England, when returning to Canada.

Crossing from Hoboken, N.J., by the German Lloyd S. S. Aller, the first entomologist I visited upon landing at Bremen in Germany was our old friend and collaborator Aug. R. Grote, and busy as he was about other matters in general, but music in particular, he found time to take me to see Mr. Lahmann's breeding room, where I saw a large number of the larvæ of Europe feeding, and also hundreds of pupæ ready for shipping to different parts of the world. In this collection I saw principally the Arctiadae and Bombycidae, but likewise many Papilios—and it was a matter of wonder to me, to see how Mr. Lahmann kept alive the food-plants for these larvæ in such a dark room as he kept them in. For the benefit of the members of the Society who might like to correspond with Mr. Lahmann, I may state that he is always ready to exchange for N. and S. American species, those of Europe, and he has succeeded in breeding many rarities in large numbers. His address is, Albert Lahmann (Ambrill Strasse 8) Bremen, Germany.

My next visit was to Dr. Meyer, director of the Natural History Museum at Dresden. Professor Ramsay Wright having furnished me with a letter of introduction, Dr. Meyer immediately put me in the hands of Dr. Heller the entomologist of the Institution, who was most attentive to my wants, and during my several visits to the collection, always managed to spend a portion of his time with me and placed the cabinets and library at my disposal whenever I desired to refer to them. Here I first observed the drawers made with glass at top and bottom, with only thin strips of cork fastened in to pin the specimens to. Any collector who has not already seen these drawers can readily appreciate the use of them. Instead of mounting Lepidoptera showing the upper and under surfaces, it is only necessary to set them right side up, and in order to examine the under-sides, all one has to do, is to turn the drawers up-side-down when the reverse sides can be examined through the glass, thus saving space and time.

This collection is well worth a visit from any traveller for it embraces fine representations in all classes of insects from every part of the globe. A number of collections have been donated to this museum by private individuals, and many purchases have been made. The whole lot have been carefully selected from and the best specimens consolidated into a fine collection of reference not only for the entomological students of Germany but for foreigners wishing to consult the cabinets. The books of the library are as carefully selected as the insects in the collection. I might mention that the moths and butterflies of Europe are particularly fine.

Herr Ribbe's collection was sold by auction during my stay in Dresden, and the chances of purchasing were remarkable. To give an idea, a fine cabinet, cork-lined drawers with glass tops (16 drawers) filled with inflated larvæ with the food-plants, was sold for 38 marks, equal to \$9.50 in our money.

I next went to see Dr. Staudinger, at Blasewitz, on the Elbe, and here I saw the most wonderful collection that I have ever come across.

Dr. Staudinger has named his place the "Villa Sphinx," and has built the house on purpose to accommodate the vast collection which for years and years has been accumulating.

Here one can see most of the insects known and a large number of the collector's own types, as well as a very numerous collection of unnamed species, to which Dr. Staudinger was devoting his time (in describing) during my visit of nearly six months at Dresden.