

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## ANTIGASTER VS. EUPELMUS.

DEAR SIR,—

I have read with interest Mr. Howard's remarks on p. 31, *ff.* In the article in the *American Entomologist* which he refers to, I stated distinctly that he gives reasons for considering *Antigaster* and *Eupelmus* synonymous, and, as I consider the reasons good, I have no criticism to make thereon. My remarks were intended to show rather that his reflection on Walsh that there were "no grounds for the founding of the genus *Antigaster*" was hardly justified. I endeavored to show that with the light then at his command Walsh had reasons for erecting the genus. The characters of *Eupelmus* as set forth by Mr. Howard are mostly brought together from works subsequent to Walsh's characterization of *Antigaster*. The close relationship of this last with *Eupelmus* was recognized by me as previously stated by Mr. Howard, and whether, in the light of subsequent writings, the two should be combined generically is a question depending on the limitation or comprehensiveness we deem best to give to generic divisions, on which subject I have no reason for differing from my friend who, from special study of the family, is most competent to decide.

C. V. RILEY, Washington, D. C.

## HOW WE CAPTURED A HORNET'S NEST.

DEAR SIR,—

One fine day last October, while enjoying a ramble in the woods near Belleville, with two of my sons, one of them took hold of a knot which projected from a small half-decayed log, intending to turn it over to search for beetles beneath it. The piece, however, came away in his hand and disclosed the entrance of a nest of black hornets. Of course we retreated "at the double" before the disturbed insects recovered from their first surprise, leaving them to settle down at their leisure. A few days after, taking advantage of a cool morning, I sent my two boys to the wood with a small bottle of chloroform and a hard rubber syringe. According to directions, they injected about a drachm of the liquid into the hole, and threw a handkerchief over the entrance. In about five minutes they opened up the nest, when they found the inmates in a perfect state of slumber, and transferred them without trouble to their cyanide bottles. In about an hour they returned, bringing me forty-eight specimens of the insect

J. T. BELL.