

with man, speaks for their power of adapting themselves to new and varied conditions. They are cunning, wary, and easily alarmed, and, except when benumbed with cold or heavy with eggs, know well how to avoid danger. They appear to me far more clever in this respect than the bees and wasps."

My article in the CAN. ENT. was written before I saw the above quoted passages in Lowne's work. In his first edition of the anatomy of the blow-fly (1870), Lowne does not advance any ideas with regard to the systematic position of the Diptera.

The real credit for the original discovery and correct interpretation of the extreme specialization of the Diptera belongs to Weismann, who published a paper upon the development of the Muscidae,* in 1864. Later, in 1876, Ganin sustained in the main the investigations of Weismann. Lowne first presented these views in English, at least in the Old Country, while Hyatt and Arms were the first to call attention to them in America.

The consensus of facts bears out the statement that the Diptera are the most highly specialized, and therefore the most highly organized order of insects. While they possess ancient as well as recent forms, they have, in the muscid families, reached a higher plane of development than any group in any other order. It is by no means contended that the Nemo-cerous Diptera are as highly organized as some groups in other orders, since they comprise the most ancient living forms of Diptera.

The Diptera probably find their culmination in the Tachinidae, and of this family doubtless the Phasiidae stand first. *Trichopoda*, *Phasia*, and *Hyalomyia* may therefore be considered as probably representing the highest forms of insect life.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

The next annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada will be held in the City of Ottawa, on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of May. The Society will be represented by Mr. Hague Harrington, our Vice President. We notice by the programme that Mr. Harrington is to read a paper on Canadian Troceridae, a subject to which he has given much attention.

*Die nachembryonale Entwicklung der Musciden nach Beobachtungen an *Musca vomitoria* und *Sarcophaga carnaria*. Zeit. f. Wiss. Zool., XIV., 187 (1864).