

phthisis (as he was himself when he came here); while the abundance of new and interesting forms of life, especially among the insects, is remarkable. Many interesting general problems, such as those of the life-zones, can also be studied in New Mexico to great advantage.

A beginning will be made this summer if students can be found. The undersigned will be glad to hear from any who are interested in the matter, and especially from those who might be inclined to work with him for longer or shorter periods during the present summer.

T. D. A. COCKERELL,
Las Cruces, New Mexico, U. S. A.

May 4, 1896.

A MOTH OUT OF PLACE.

There has been added to the Society's collection a moth of more than ordinary interest. I sent to Prof. J. B. Smith, for determination, a box of specimens which were to me either new or doubtful. He kindly and promptly returned the same with the names of all except one, which was a *Plusia* quite new to him, and retained it for further study. In the letter to me accompanying the names, the Professor remarked: "No. 12 (*Tæniocampa vegeta*) is rather a surprise to me from your locality. Of course, it is not a *Tæniocampa*, but it has been so described." He then referred me to his catalogue of the Noctuidæ (Bulletin 44, of the U. S. N. M.) for what was known concerning the species. So I turned to it and found this on page 207:

"*T. vegeta*, Morr.

"1875. Morr., Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci., XXVII., 432. *Tæniocampa*.

"Habitat.—Texas.

"The type is in the Tepper collection. A correctly named specimen is also in the British Museum, from the Grote collection. The species is not a *Tæniocampa*, and probably belongs to the fasciatæ; but in default of sufficient study to place it certainly, I leave it here for the present. Mr. Slingerland has called my attention to the fact that *Cissusa spadix*, of Cramer, heretofore referred as a synonym of *Drasteria erectea*, is a distinct species. On examination I find this to be the fact, and it is more than likely that it will prove the same as the above species. Material for study is lacking, therefore the reference can not be positively made."

So it yet remains inaccurately placed from want of sufficient material for study. It seems also to have got far away from its supposed proper place of residence. Taken in London, at electric light, about the middle of April, 1896.

J. ALSTON MOFFAT.