

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

NEW MODE OF ATTRACTING LEPIDOPTERA.—We beg to direct the attention of our readers to the following new method of attracting Lepidoptera, which appears to be wonderfully successful in France, and trust that it will be tried next year in this country. We translate the account from *Les Petites Nouvelles Entomologiques* No. 37, page 148 :—“ Among the various methods employed in the collection of Lépidoptera, the most successful, both as regards the quantity and freshness of the specimens which it enables one to procure, and as regards the number and rarity of species—the most successful, we say—is that which consists in employing some bait for the attraction of Lepidoptera. Everyone knows, indeed, the mode of pursuit indicated by the title of “sugaring” (*mîdlee*), and no one is ignorant how very productive it is. But this method is not the only one which consists in the employment of baits, and it is by no means the most productive. There is one other in particular, which is only known to some Entomologists, who are unwilling to divulge, even to their friends, the secret of the richness of their collection. One of our colleagues tells us that he had seen this mode of collection practised for some years, but without being able to obtain the secret of it. He saw a large quantity of nocturnal Lepidoptera taken in this way, and among them some rare species.

“This plan consists in suspending to trees, by means of twine, some apples half dried in an oven, known in commerce by the name of ‘*pommes au four*, *pommes tapées*,’ etc. These apples diffuse a strong odour of *Reinette*, an abnormal odour of some fruits in this state of desiccation. From twilight, the Lepidoptera came hovering in swarms about this bait, which, after a little while, was literally covered with Noctuadæ, Geometers, etc., in a complete state of immobility. The collector had nothing more to do than to plunge the apple into a wide-necked bottle, charged with Cyanide of Potassium to kill them. He visited in this manner all his baits, and collected in half an hour more than he had collected in a week by means of ‘sugaring.’

“Some Entomologists, having discovered the ingredient by means of which they communicated this abnormal odour to apples, and being more desirous of benefitting their colleagues, and aiding the progress of science, than of preserving a monopoly of certain captures, have communicated to us the result of their investigations, and we are happy to make it known