

readers. Before proceeding to do so, however, we must not omit to draw special attention to what was really the grand feature of the meeting—the retiring President, Professor Gray's, able and most interesting address, and to recommend its perusal to all our readers.

The only entomological paper read in Section B, "Natural History," was a very interesting one by Mr. C. V. Riley, on "The Fertilization of the Yucca Plant by *Pronuba Yuccasella*," it was listened to with marked attention, and was followed by an animated discussion, in which Prof. Gray, Mr. Morse and others took part. It will, we believe, be published very shortly by the author, but meanwhile we may give a base outline of its leading features. It appears that the American Yuccas possess flowers so peculiarly constructed, that it is impossible for the pollen to reach the stigma, and consequently they depend upon artificial means for their fertilization. Mr. Riley has discovered that the "marriage priest" is a small white moth, hitherto unknown to science, which he has named *Pronuba Yuccasella*, and considers the type of a new genus. The most remarkable feature in the insect is that the female (not the male) has the basal joint of the maxillary palpus developed in a most extraordinary manner into a long curved tentacle furnished with spines. With this process the insect collects the pollen and conveys it to the tube of the stigma, which it could not otherwise reach; she then lays her eggs, the larvæ from which feed upon the seeds of the Yucca fruit. The larva escapes to the ground when full grown, and passes the winter there in a silken cocoon. Mr. Riley remarked that in the more northern portions of America, where the Yucca had been introduced for the sake of its ornamental flowers, it never bore seed on account of the absence of this insect; by the introduction of this moth, however, the defect might without difficulty be remedied.

A matter of much interest to the entomologists present, and which will probably prove of importance hereafter, was the formation of an Entomological Sub-section. On Saturday, the 24th of August, during the general meeting of the Association, a notice was read requesting those interested in this department of Natural History to meet together at the close of the morning session for the purpose of consulting together respecting the organization of a Sub-section. At the time appointed, the following members were present: Rev. Dr. Morris, of Baltimore, Md.; Mr. C. V. Riley, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. G. M. Levette, Indianapolis; Mr. O. S. Westcott, Chicago; Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Port Hope, Ont.; Mr. W. Saunders, London, Ont., and Miss M. B. Norton, Rockford, Ill.