temia salina, which abounds in the sea water, appeared in large numbers in the pool. The dam was immediately repaired, and in the space of three years the amount of the salt in the pool arrived gradually at the same concentration as before.

A Russian naturalist, Mr. Schmaukevitch, living near the spot and studying carefully *Artemia*, was astonished to find the species somewhat changed in every following generation, till in three years the *Artemia salina* was changed entirely into *mulhauseni*. The fact was so extraordinary that he decided to confirm it by a more conclusive proof. He raised at home in open glass dishes *Artemia salina*, and by successive additions of salt to the water, he was able to transform the species into *Artemia mulhauseni*. To make the counter proof, he diluted the water gradually and the species returned to the form of *Artemia salina*. But by continued dilution of the water he was more surprised to find that in the third generation the long abdominal segment began to be separated into two segments, and finally to be changed as in a *Branchipus*. He found later in salt pools of only four to five degrees (living together) *Artemia salina* and *Branchipus spinosa*, and in water with a lower degree of salt two other related species, *Branchipus ferox* and *media*.

Mr. Schmaukevitch has made similar experiments with similar results on *Daphnia*, *Cyclops*, and *Canthocamptus*, which he has not yet published. There can be no doubt about the facts under such conclusive proof, and Prof. V. Siebold is now engaged in raising the American species from Salt Lake for similar experiments. These facts oblige us to consider all these different forms as belonging to one and the same species, since it is possible to change at will one form into another by altering the conditions of living. As long as this is possible they cannot be considered as differentiating or Darwinian species. We have now the proof that specific characters exist which do not depend on minuter points of structure. Therefore, we are taught that we must considerably enlarge the characters of species and those of the genus.

What has been thus proven in Crustacea will certainly be observed also with other Articulates. Since insects do not possess a post-abdomen, there cannot occur the same differences as in the case cited, but analogous ones will not be wanting. It is obvious that so-called "salt insects" are the first ones which will need new and careful study. Those known areColeoptera, Diptera, Hemipteraand Orthoptera, and the species are often nearly related to other ones which do not live in salt regions. Further, it is evident that similar changes will be the result of different conditions of life. So-called "local varieties" are certainly nothing else, and a vast field of observation and study is opened by the remarkable discoveries of Mr. Schmaukevitch. I believe that we are now justified when we exclude from generic characters all the following ones:

1. Every character based on the number of parts, when the number ceases to be a small one; the more so when it varies in related species. If a number is larger than about a dozen, we can never rely upon the constancy of the number in antennal joints and anal appendages. In spines, bristles, spurs, a much smaller number is constant; transversal veins of the wings belong to the same category.

2. The external coating of the body, consisting in hairs, scales and other appendages, is not a generic character. The hairs, tufts, brushes, spines, spurs, are often only sexual and can not be considered generic characters; also, hairy eyes, since we find this character changing in the most related species and probably in the same species in Diptera.

3. The presence or want of the ocelli or eyes is not a generic character.

4. The veins of the wings give only to a certain degree generic characters, viz: the principal branches, but certainly not after the bifurcation.

Having arriving so far by exclusion, it is important to state what is left for generic characters.

So far as I am advanced in the study of generic characters, I think the following should be used:

1. The form and relation of the three principal parts of the body.

2. The organs providing nutrition (mouth parts).

3. The organs making possible the working of the mouth parts, *i. e.*, the organs of locomotion.

The anatomical characters may be of prominent help. At present our knowledge as