

these collections or the many fine insects observed, but reference was made to the abundance of large wasps, and to the Semi or Cicada, whose noise is so obtrusive during the hot weather, and which is captured by the children with slender bamboos tipped with rice glue.

The address having occupied an hour and a half it was moved by Mr. Kingston, seconded by Mr. Lees, "that the reading of the Ornithological Report be deferred until the next soiree." Carried.

At the request of the members Mr. Harrington attired himself in a Japanese costume, explaining, however, that fine feathers do not make fine birds, and that he was afraid the clothes would not make him look like a Japanese, or show to advantage their graceful qualities.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JAPANESE GLASS-ROPE SPONGE.

To the Editor of the Ottawa Naturalist.

DEAR SIR,—In anticipation of any report you may make of my "talk" upon Japan will you permit me to briefly supplement the reference then made to the exhibited specimens of *Hyalonema Sieboldii* I find that some of those present received the impression that this interesting form is an artificial "plant" instead of a *natural* curiosity. The specimens shown, of which one was complete and the other stripped of the sponge proper, were obtained at Enoshima, where they may be had in abundance, of varying sizes and degrees of perfection. The trifling price at which they are sold would at once negative the idea that they are manufactured, even were the object of such manufacture apparent. They are obtained by dredging, in about 200 fathoms, on reefs situated near the mouth of the Gulf of Tokio. During my stay in Yokohama I read in a volume of the transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan a very interesting paper on these sponges, and the only point on which the author asked for further investigation was the relationship borne to the sponge by the polyyps surrounding the stalk. Various theories have been held by naturalists as to the growth of these