

KINGSTON BRANCH.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Kingston Branch was held at the office of the Secretary on the evening of April 11, Prof. Dupuis in the chair. The report of the proceedings of the Society for the last year (the first of its existence) was read, and, on motion, was adopted. Two new members were proposed for election. On motion, Prof. N. F. Dupuis was re-elected President, E.H. Collins, Esq., Vice-President, and R.V. Rogers, jr., Secretary-Treasurer.

After the usual routine work, the members adjourned with the determination that 1872 would see them more devoted and enthusiastic followers in the tracks of the insects hosts than ever.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

DETERMINATION OF SEX.—In view of the occasionally great dissimilarity in the sexes (as now received) of several species of *Lepidoptera*, it would be interesting to know how many of these have been determined from the fact of copulation, seeing that evidence of this nature, although presumptively good, cannot be considered as complete proof that the sexes so seen *in coitu* are sexes of the same species.

Almost every one accustomed to the rearing of insects is doubtless aware of this fact, but it does not seem to be very generally known; and I am tolerably certain that the decision of a very eminent entomologist, (decision perhaps not yet made public), that *H. pocohontas* is merely an aberrant female form of *H. hobomok*, is based entirely on the fact of copulation. But when two such clearly distinct species as *Samia cynthia* and *Callosamia promethea* (we will suppose the generic difference to amount to nothing), and species of such manifestly distinct genera as those of *Epinephle* and *Vanessa* will copulate, I think that we run no great risk in saying that copulation proves nothing, so far as the determination of species is concerned.

Perhaps I should say that I have repeatedly witnessed the copulation of *Cynthia* and *Promethea*, and my information as to *Epinephle* and *Vanessa* comes from a good source. But one instance is as good as a thousand.

It may be that a consideration of this incidental mingling of species