

Synoptic work has a higher purpose than a mere aid to a recognition of species.

Prof. Fernald was interested in Dr. Horn's view of the case; he had been interested in the view that nature had no genera, but species only. For his part he thought he would be satisfied if he had a good definition of a species.

Dr. Maclosky said that birds sometimes offer remarkable differences in sex, and species can be distinguished only by a reference to both. The flickers, for instance, of the two sides of the continent were very distinct, but in some intermediate localities the species approached so closely that it was difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish the females, while the males were separable. There was no anatomical difference between the species, but he thought there must be physiological characters not yet discovered which separated them.

Dr. Morris thought it a curious classification that would place male and female in different genera if separately considered.

Mr. Osborn read a paper on *Mallophaga* and *Pediculidæ* of N. A., illustrated by drawings of specimens and slides containing specimens mounted for microscopic examination. (This paper will appear separately in the C. E.)

Miss Cora H. Clarke exhibited a specimen of the work of some Caddis Fly larvæ (*Hydropsyche*), consisting of an aggregation of mud cells on a small stone, beyond which were the nets spread by the larvæ. They were always found in running water, and always had an opening toward the current, probably to enable the larva to catch the food coming down the current. In reply to a question from Dr. Morris, Miss Clarke said the nets were often solitary, but not unfrequently aggregations were found. Another species, of *Plectrocnemia*, builds a vertical tube of mud, sometimes with a number of branches; a specimen was exhibited. Dr. Hagen thinks it an undescribed form. Reference was made to figures in a paper entitled "Description of two interesting houses made by Caddis Fly Larvæ, by Cora H. Clarke." The larvæ living in running water were difficult to raise.

Mr. Mann remarked that *apropos* of raising larvæ living in running water, Prof. Barnard, of the Dept. of Agriculture, had contrived an arrangement with which he had great success with larvæ of that kind. It consists of a glass tube, the bottom closed by a porous cloth, the other