

8vo.) is still the best work, exhibiting the dipterological system. In order to obtain information on the progress which science has made since Meigen's age, this work may be followed by the study of Walker's *Diptera Britannica*. The excellent plates by Mr. Westwood, and the systematic arrangement prepared for the most part by Mr. Haliday, give to this work a value not shared by Mr. Walker's other publications. Next to these I would name Mr. Macquart's *Diptères Exotiques*, a work which, notwithstanding the errors in many of its figures and the carelessness of nearly all the descriptions, affords a great deal of useful information about the systematic arrangement of Diptera.

After having acquired a general knowledge of the system by the study of these three works (or, if not familiar with the German language, of the two latter only), the best plan will be to concentrate special study on one, or, at the utmost, on a few families of Diptera, and to consult the monographic papers relative to them, which are not difficult to procure, in order to obtain a complete and sure knowledge of characters within a more limited field. For even the smallest field will always be found wide enough to afford opportunities for the most interesting discoveries. This mode of obtaining a knowledge of the system capable of serving as a solid foundation to valuable publications is certainly a long and tedious one. It may be considerably facilitated, however, by the use of a well determined collection of typical specimens of all the families and genera, and it will afford me much pleasure to extend all assistance in my power to those who may prefer the latter course; for both my wish to become better acquainted with the Diptera of North America and their desire to study the system might well coincide to supply the wants of both parties.

I am always ready to send in exchange for well preserved N. A. Diptera forwarded to me (address Mr. H. Loew, Meseritz, Prussia) a reasonable equivalent in accurately named representatives of the genera. I should probably be obliged, in most cases, to send only European specimens, whereas, perhaps, it would seem more desirable to have N. A. species. But the number of species occurring in perfect identity both in Europe and North America is so surprisingly large, and, besides, there are so many N. A. species exceedingly resembling well-known European ones, that the best foundation for the study of N. A. Diptera would be a complete collection of European species. It will be very useful to