

Mr. A. R. Grote, of Buffalo, N. Y., delivered an able and interesting lecture on certain generic characteristics of the *Noctuidæ*, which, it is to be hoped, he will prepare for publication. At the close of his remarks he expressed his anxiety that describers of Noctuids should refer particularly to those parts on which generic characters are based.

Prof. A. J. Cook, of the State Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich., gave an account of recent investigations in Apiculture. Among many other interesting facts he stated that if the wings of the virgin queen be clipped, or the entrance to the hive be so contracted that she cannot fly forth; or, again, if she be reared where there are no drones, she will not be sterile, but from her eggs only drones will be produced; that the fate of the drones in a hive depends on the prosperity of the colony—with a rapid increase of bees and honey they are safe, but if there is a period of adversity in these respects, unless caused by the loss or sterility of the queen, they are speedily destroyed by the workers; that worker bees are imperfectly developed females; that bees possess and employ the sense of smell, and that they have a good knowledge of locality. In answer to a question from Dr. Morris respecting the alleged robbery of fruit by bees, whether they will not perforate ripe fruits if starved for a time, Prof. Cook replied that he had not tried starvation, but he had placed punctured grapes before bees and found that they would sip the juice with zest, but when he replaced the fruit with sound specimens they did not attempt to touch them.

Mr. Scudder then exhibited some illustrations of rare fossil insects, prepared for publication in Dr. Hayden's report, and a large volume of lithographed plates, colored drawings, &c., of Diurnal Lepidoptera in all their stages, which he had had made to illustrate his proposed great work on the Butterflies of North America.

Mr. J. D. Putnam, of the Davenport Academy, presented some notes on the North American Galeodes (Solpugidæ), and exhibited specimens in illustration.

The Rev. H. C. McCook, of Philadelphia, gave a most interesting lecture on the life history of the Honey Ants of the Garden of the Gods, Colorado, and illustrated it with specimens of the insects and a great number of very large water-color drawings. He described fully the chambers excavated by the ants, the insects themselves in all their forms, their nocturnal habits, and their feeding upon the saccharine juice exuded from the galls of the scrub-oak. He stated that the workers are unde-