

It was pointed out that the close imitation of the stones was mainly effected by the modification of the dorsal shield of the prothorax, which is, with the whole thorax, much flattened and widened, and is further much produced posteriorly, and has its surface roughened or granulated in close resemblance to the surface of the stones.

In conclusion, he called attention to the bearing of the case of this insect on the question of the origin of species; and in putting the alternative whether the peculiar station of the *Trachypetra* had been specially prepared for it immediately before or simultaneously with the creation of the insect, or whether, on the contrary, the insect had been very gradually modified by natural selection in imitation of the stones for the purpose of concealment, he expressed his decided opinion in favor of the latter hypothesis.

Specimens of the insect were exhibited in association with some of the stones among which they were captured, and the very close resemblance between stones and insects excited general remark. Mr. Trimen observed that in nature the mimicry was more effective, the colours of the dead insects having faded considerably, and the shrinking of the abdomen having caused the hind legs to be much more apparent than was the case in living examples.—*Nature*.

NEW ENTOMOLOGICAL BOOKS.—The 14th fasciculus of Mulsant's "Opuscula Entomologica" is just published. The 3rd volume of the "Natural History of the Hemiptera of France" will be ready in a few days, and will contain four tribes. M. Mulsant has published the new edition of his "History of the Lamellicorns of France," as well as the 1st part of the "Staphylinidæ." A new edition of the "Iconography and Natural History of Larvæ of Lepidoptera," by M. M. Duponchel and Guenee, is about to be issued: the work gives descriptions and figures of a great number of the larvæ of European Lepidoptera, of course including English species; these figures are contained in ninety-three plates, excellently coloured: the work is published in forty fasciculi, at one franc each. Of the Iconography and Description of unpublished Lepidoptera of Europe, by P. Milliere, twenty-five fasciculi have been published, and these contain more than a thousand descriptions of larvæ, pupæ and perfect insects, with the plants on which the larvæ feed, and other details of their life-history; the work is worthy the support of all lovers of the science; nothing can exceed the delicacy and finish of the figures.—*Newman's Entomologist*.