

ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

Meeting No. 3, held at Mr. W. Simpson's house, Jan. 24, 1906: ten present. At the request of Mr. Simpson, Dr. Fletcher acted as Chairman.

Mr Harrington gave an account of the chief characteristics of the Lampyridæ, reading extracts from Dr. Sharpe's article on the subject in the Cambridge Natural History. The phenomenon of luminosity was discussed and several present spoke of having observed this in larval forms. The different groups were considered, and Mr. Simpson exhibited his collection in which most of the Ottawa species were represented. Mr. Harrington read extracts from an article in the January "Entomological News" by Dr. W. A. Riley, giving an account of the remarkable process of polyembryony of *Litomastix truncatellus* as discovered by Prof. Filippo Sylvestri, of Portici, Italy. A most striking feature of this process is that from a single egg there originate in the parasitized larvæ over a thousand individuals of two different types of larvæ, one thousand being of the normal form; and in addition there are about one hundred vermiform asexual larvæ, which lack all trace of circulatory, respiratory, or genital systems or of malpighian tubes. They are, however, provided with strongly developed mouth parts adapted for tearing, and their special function seems to be the breaking down of the organs of the parasitized caterpillar and thus preparing them to serve as nutriment for the sexual forms.

Mr. Gibson exhibited a case containing complete series of inflates illustrating the life histories of *Gluphisia severa*, *Smerinthus cerysii*, var. *ophthalmicus*, and *Crocigrapha normani*, all of which had been reared from the egg, and larvæ preserved of each stage. Mr. Gibson also read a short article on the Great Leopard Moth, *Ecpantheria deflorata*.

Mr. Young showed a case of 130 different species of geometridæ which he had taken at Ottawa and specimens of all of which had been through the Rev. G. W. Taylor's hands for identification. The most interesting species were pointed out and some facts of their occurrence stated.