

Dr. Gustav Mayr, of Vienna, in a letter just received, states that Dr. Adler, of Schleswig, has this year published an "epoch-marking" paper upon the subject of agamous reproduction among the Cynipidæ.*

Dr. Adler finds that what have been described as fourteen distinct species of Cynipidæ—belonging to six distinct genera—are really but seven species.

Four species of *Neuroterons* are found to be the agamous forms of as many species of *Spathogaster*.

Two species of *Aphilothrix* are the agamous forms of two species of *Andricus*, and a species of *Dryophanta* is the agamous form of a *Trigonaspis*.

Dr. Mayr himself was at work upon this problem, but had not succeeded, as his efforts to grow oak trees in his garden had failed. He had not given up the attempt, but had ordered more trees to plant this spring.

Neither Dr. Mayr nor Dr. Adler seem to have seen my article. I communicated the substance of it in a letter to Prof. Albert Müller, then in London. This was read before the London Entomological Society at the meeting of April 7th, 1873, but I notice that English Entomologists continue to talk about Hartig's experiments, and agamous reproduction through an infinity of generations, and of a hypothetical male gall fly that must appear now and then, always just in time to save the race from extinction.

Dr. Adler's paper will no doubt receive the attention it justly deserves and it is to be hoped that the success that has followed his experiments may lead others to aid in developing the history of this singular family of insects.

It is not safe to assume that the history of one species will be the history of all, but the idea that these insects are perpetuated through many generations by unimpregnated females must be abandoned.

* Since the above was written I have received a copy of Dr. Adler's paper; also a letter in which he kindly consents to the publication of all or a part of the paper. I propose shortly to prepare for publication in the ENTOMOLOGIST a summary of his remarkable discoveries.