

A box of Lepidoptera from Miss Carey of Amhersburg, was shown by Mr. E. B. Reed, containing some interesting specimens taken in that locality; among others there were fine examples of *Papilio thoas* and *Philampelus satellitia*.

W. Saunders exhibited a box of Coleoptera, embracing a large number of species kindly donated by Theodore L. Mead, Esq., of New York. Also, several boxes of European insects, presented by Francis Walker, Esq., of the British Museum. The Secretary was instructed to tender to Mr. Walker the sincere thanks of the Society for his continued liberality in this matter—the cabinets of the Society and those of the members also having been repeatedly enriched with valuable specimens through his kindness.

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#### OBITUARY.

DR. LECONTE announced the death, at Davidsburg, York Co., Pa., on the 10th March, of Friedrich Ernest Melsheimer, M. D., a correspondent of the Academy, aged nearly ninety-one years. He inherited great taste for entomology from his father, E. F. Melsheimer, a clergyman, who cultivated natural science with much success, and not only was a highly esteemed correspondent of Knoch and other European entomologists of the end of the past and beginning of the present century, but an active collaborator with Say, the founder of descriptive entomology in the United States.

Dr. Melsheimer thus inheriting the tastes and the collection of his father, has preserved, for later investigators, the only authentic type of many of Mr. Say's species; and has also contributed no small proportion of the descriptions of Coleoptera, which appeared up to February, 1874. His memoirs on this subject, containing notes and descriptions of about four hundred and fifty-seven species, were printed in the 2d and 3d vols. of the proceedings of this Academy.

Entomology also owes to him the catalogue of the described Coleoptera of the United States, which, after revision by Prof. S. S. Haldeman and myself, was published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1853. It was the first work of bibliographical importance in the modern history of that branch of science, and gave a powerful impetus to its development in the United States, and has greatly diminished the labor of those who have continued the study of that department.

Living an isolated life on his farm, remote from usual lines of travel, dependent almost entirely on letters for the sympathy and counsel of his fellow students, separated from libraries containing the results of modern research, and therefore dependent on the traditional knowledge received from Europe, which constituted in fact most of the intellectual capital of the founders of natural history in the United States, Dr. Melsheimer must be considered as a very remarkable instance of one who, with very limited opportunities, has worked honestly, to the extent of his abilities, to develop the powers of usefulness which were given him.

Modest, unpretending, affectionate to his family, devoted to his friends, industrious to the limit of human usefulness, his death, at such an advanced age, can only leave, with those who have enjoyed his acquaintance, a satisfaction that they have known so good a representative of the purer qualities of humanity.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phil.*

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

- First, second and third Annual Reports of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories for 1867, 1868 and 1869, 8vo, pp. 86. From F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist.
- Sixth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, embracing portions of Montana, Wyoming and Utah, for the year 1872. By F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist, 8vo., pp. 884, with numerous illustrations.
- Contributions to the Extinct Vertebrate Fauna of the Western Territories. By Joseph Leidy, from the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.
- Aerididae of North America. By Cyrus Thomas, Ph. D., from the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.
- Catalogue de Livres D'Histoire Naturelle. De E. Deyrolle Fils 23, Rue de la Monnaie, Paris.
- The Scottish Naturalist, January, 1874.
- Science Gossip, January, 1874.
- Nature, to January 22, 1874.
- Canada Farmer, to Feb. 2, 1874.
- Indiana Farmer, Jan., 1874.
- Contributions to Entomological Bibliography, up to 1862. By Albert Muller. No. 3.
- Newman's Entomologist, Nov. and Dec., 1873.; Jan., 1874.
- The Zoologist, Dec., 1873, and Jan., 1874.
- The Entomologists' Monthly Magazine, Dec., 1873.
- The Horticulturist, Jan., 1874.
- Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, to Feb., 1873.
- Hints for the Promotion of Economic Entomology in the U.S. By John L. LeConte, M.D.
- American Agriculturist, Feb., 1874.
- Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture, Jan., 1874.
- Le Naturaliste Canadien, Janvier, 1874
- The Western Rural, Chicago, to Jan. 24, 1874.
- Rural New Yorker, Jan., 1874.
- Maine Farmer, Dec. 29, 1873.