

Mr. Smith said that, on the occasion of a recent visit to Philadelphia, he had an opportunity of looking over carefully the Sphingidæ of the collection of the Am. Ent. Soc. Many of these are determined by Mr. Grote, and the types of his papers on Cuban Sphingidæ are there. In the genus *Diludia*, Mr. Grote has three species, *jasminearum*, *brontes* and *leucophæata*. The species are not at all congeneric. *Brontes* is the type of the genus and has a large, prominent head, armed fore tarsi and produced thorax. He pointed out the difference between the species referred to here, and claims that neither *brontes* nor *leucophæata* are properly members of our fauna, but must be dropped from our lists. *Jasminearum* is entirely different generically from the others.*

Mr. Howard spoke at some length of a recent trip to Cambridge, Ithaca, and Philadelphia. He praised the extensive biological collection of insects in the Agassiz Museum, and exhibited a case of a Caddis Worm (*Aspatherium picicorne*), given him by Dr. Hagen, and which had been infested by an Ichneumonid, *Agriotypus armatus*. The same parasite is known to infest *Spathidopteryx* (*Phryganeidæ*). He mentioned the fact that the collection of *Braconidæ*, presented by Dr. Foerster to the Peabody Academy, is now in the Agassiz Museum, and prior to its removal it had become badly damaged, and that now less than half of the species are in condition for comparison. He then described the systematic collection which Prof. Comstock has brought together at the Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. This is already a most excellent reference collection. The Lepidoptera have been determined by Grote, Morrison, and Mrs. Fernald; the Hemiptera by Uhler; the Diptera by Williston; the Orthoptera by Scudder and Pierce, and the Hymenoptera by Cresson. He also described several ingenious contrivances invented by Prof. Comstock, and in use in his laboratory. Among them the block-system for the arrangement of a permanent collection, his darkened glass tubes for the observation of pith-inhabiting Hymenoptera, his automatic apparatus for the inflation of several larvæ at once, his cabinet with insulated drawers for colonies of ants, and his cartridge belt for collecting purposes. He did not dwell upon the collection of

* Further particulars on the subject were published by Mr. Smith, in *Entomol. Amer.* iii, p. 154.