

has demonstrated the sincerity of her intention to lead a different life. The patrons of the Yoshiwara are required to register their names, residences and occupations in books that are always accessible to the public and the police, and an account of their expenditures is accurately kept.

Mr. Curtis asserts that this system has been remarkably successful both from a sanitary and a moral point of view.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE 112th regular meeting was held December 5, 1895. Mr. Hubbard read a paper on 'Distribution of Certain Species of *Mytilaspis*.' He spoke of the unreliability of tradition and early records as a source of exact knowledge concerning the introduction and spread from one country to another of scale insects which are so easily transported and difficult of specific identification. He referred particularly to the published accounts of the introduction into Florida of *Mytilaspis gloveri* and *M. citricola*. The former is supposed to have been brought to Mandarin in 1838 by Mr. Robinson, on two trees obtained in New York from a ship which came from China, and the latter was said to have been brought to Florida some years later upon lemons from Bermuda. According to the speaker, both of these positive statements, hitherto unchallenged, are probably erroneous. The insect mentioned by Glover as having been brought from Bermuda is not a *Mytilaspis*, and *M. citricola* at that time had not yet reached Europe from the East. It certainly did not reach Florida much before 1880. *M. gloveri* is to-day the principal pest of the orange in the interior of Mexico, and it is probable that it was introduced with the orange into Florida and Mexico by the Spaniards at the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century. Its appearance in 1838 was only the continuation of an epidemic of Coccid pests of the orange which is known to have overwhelmed the citrus plantations of Europe in the early part of the century, and to have spread westward some time later to the Azores, Canaries, and finally to Bermuda. The speaker suggested that the obvious tendency to variation in form and thickness among the scales of *Mytilaspis* had

produced in North America from an original tropical species *M. pomorum*, *M. citricola* and *M. gloveri*.

Dr. Stiles exhibited a *Dermestes* larva taken from a corpse 3 to 6 months after death. He referred to the statement by Mégnin in his 'La Faune des Cadavres,' that the period from burial of a corpse to its final dissolution may be divided into eight portions, each of these portions being characterized by the presence of a different series of insects. In regard to the manner in which insects gain access to a corpse, Mr. Hubbard said that with the Diptera the egg must be deposited on the outside of the coffin before burial, since he does not believe it possible for the young larva to make its way through the soil after burial. Dr. Stiles said that he did not agree with Mégnin in many of his conclusions, but considered the field a very interesting one for investigation by entomologists.

L. O. HOWARD,
Secretary.

[Abstract of report by D. W. Coquillett,
Acting Secretary.]

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ST. LOUIS, DECEMBER 16, 1895.

THE Academy held its regular meeting at the Academy rooms with President Green in the chair and twenty-eight members and visitors present.

The committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year made report of following nominations:

President, Melvin L. Gray.
1st Vice-President, Edmund A. Engler.
2d Vice-President, Robert Moore.
Corresponding Secretary, Allerton S. Cushman.
Recording Secretary, Wm. Trelease.
Treasurer, Enno Sander.
Librarian, Gustav Hambach.
Directors, John Green, Adolph Herthel.
Curators, Julius Hurter, Herbert A. Wheeler,
George R. Olshausen.

Prof. J. H. Kinealy presented his new instrument for testing the purity of air in buildings and gave an explanation of the method employed.

A. W. DOUGLAS,
Recording Secretary.