

---

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. William D. Shaw, of Montreal, on the 29th of June, 1886, at the early age of 19 years. The deceased was well known for his early application to science, he having been the leading spirit in founding the Montreal Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Of this Chapter Mr. Shaw was Secretary and Treasurer, and in 1885 was appointed General Secretary for Canada. Mr. Shaw was also a member of the Council of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario, a member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and a member of the Astro-Meteorological Association. A devoted student of science, his loss will be deeply felt by his fellow workers. Unassuming, guileless and upright, his memory will ever be held in loving remembrance by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

---

---

CORRESPONDENCE.

---

ON EXPLOSIVE EMISSIONS FROM CARABIDÆ.

*Dear Sir:* There are other Carabidæ in our fauna which make an explosive emission from anal glands besides *Brachynus*. Mr. Ricksecker has observed the same in *Metrius*, and while I have taken these, I have never been so fortunate as to observe that act. The same is, however, done by *Psydruis piceus*. Many of our Carabide genera emit forcibly an irritating liquid, decidedly acid in its reaction, but without any explosive noise or with visible vapor; among these are *Cychrus*, *Calosoma*, *Carabus*, *Nomius* and *Chlaenius*. It is possible that *Calathus* does the same, as stated by Mr. Townsend, but the "white smoke" observed is probably the result of a chemical combination between the vapors in the cyanide bottle and the acid exudation, similar to that noticed when the vapors of hydrochloric acid and ammonia meet. Many of these exudations are not unpleasant to the smell, but in *Nomius* the offensiveness of the odor is entirely disproportionate to the size of the insect.

Philadelphia, April 28, 1886.

GEORGE H. HORN, M. D.

## A CORRECTION.

*Dear Sir:* I described in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, June, 1885, vol. xvii., p. 115, a new Ichneumonid for which I created the new genus *Platysoma*. But advised by my friend, Mr. E. T. Cresson, I recognized that this name was pre-occupied for a Coleopterous insect of the family Histeridæ. I propose in consequence to change this name in that of *Aplomerus* (from *aplous* simple, and *meros* thigh). Thus, *Platysoma tibialis* must be read *Aplomerus tibialis* Prov.

Cap Rouge, April 15th, 1886.

L. PROVANCHER.

## BOOK NOTICE.

*The Butterflies of the Eastern United States:* By G. H. French, A. M.

This book is indicative of the progress lately made in Zoology, and particularly in Entomology, in that such work is possible, and that it is appreciated. In a plain, simple, and still complete and thorough way, it presents the facts known about a large and distinct group of living objects, which attract the interested attention of every lover and student of nature. The first question which a student asks of a newly found object is, "What is it?" If the object comes within the scope of this volume, this question will be answered easily and satisfactorily. The work has been done carefully and well. The writer has shown his good judgment quite as much in what he has left out, as in what he has put in his book. He has wisely accepted the work which the great body of Entomologists has done before him. He has not felt that a woe rested upon him if he failed to revise, which commonly means to ignore all such work. He has not tried to create a chaos and call it science. He has evidently preferred to present the facts of his subject, rather than to display himself. For what he has done, and for what he has omitted to do, he deserves thanks. The volume is well printed, and its many illustrations, though in many cases familiar, are still the best extant. While we recognize their abundance, we still wish there were more, and hope that it will at some time be possible to figure in such a book every species mentioned. We trust that this work will be followed by others equally meritorious in every division of the wide Entomological field.

S. H. PEABODY.