

## COLLECTING AT LIGHT.

I have read with much interest a couple of papers by Mr. Hanham, of Winnipeg, on the capturing of insects "at light." I had adopted this method in the Old Country with much success, and last season in this district, near the head of Lake Manitoba, I employed the same means and secured a goodly number of specimens. There is no doubt that light is most efficacious in securing to the one who makes use of it many insects that would otherwise be only rarely met with, but while engaged in thus making captives one cannot help being struck—a point to which Mr. Hanham alludes—with the effect light has upon many of the Lepidoptera, or rather with the different effects it has upon different individuals. Now, it seems to me that a careful observation on the part of entomologists in this respect might in due time throw fresh "light" on the habits or even structure of the insects observed. *Why*, I may ask, should light have such a different effect upon insects of the same class? As there is a reason for everything, so there must be here. A casual observer may note that while light acts upon some individuals as an irresistible attraction, to others it is simply repellent, and in the case of others both these effects are combined. Then, again, some are evidently thrown into a kind of stupor under the effect of the glare, and settling down near the attractive force, remain immovable for hours; while yet again others are frantic in their struggles to reach the source of their fascination. This difference of effect, while it points to a dissimilarity of temperament, would seem to indicate a difference of structure, if anywhere, in the eye. Is this known to be a fact; or, if this be not the case, in what does it consist? It seems to me that here is a wide field for investigation, and it might not be lost labour if, during the coming season, those entomologists who adopt light as a means of capture would, as far as possible, classify the insects taken in regard to the effect the light has upon them.

I may say that when using light, I place it before a closed window on the ground floor, and stand outside, and with a net I am able to capture many insects which do not apparently ever settle on the glass, but simply approach within range of the light and then fly away rapidly at an angle, acting much in the same manner as a comet is said to do in regard to the sun.

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ERRATUM.

CAN. ENT., 1898, p.15, line 8, for "not commonly" read "*most commonly.*"