

Obituary.

PROF. P. C. ZELLER.

The death of this veteran lepidopterist has occurred, long expected and deeply regretted. Seven years younger than the century itself, Prof. Zeller was born on the 9th of April, 1808. Professor in the Prussian Real Schule at Meseritz, he was finally retired on a Government pension, and has lived since 1870 near Stettin, continuing his entomological labors in connection with the Entomological Society of Stettin. Commencing to write at an early age, Professor Zeller has grown up with the modern science of lepidopterology. His earliest studies were upon the collections of Frau Lienig and the material brought by himself from a Southern trip, which extended as far as Sicily. Zeller discovered the curious diurnal *Rhodocera Farinosa*, besides describing certain *Lycænida*, but his principal attention was given to the small moths of the families *Pyralidæ* to *Tineidæ*, the modern classification of which he may be said to have founded. He first cleared up the confusion as to the genera of *Phycidæ* and by using natural characters, chiefly secondary sexual ones, he succeeded in disentangling our minds with regard to the order of nature in this obscure and neglected field of inquiry. His species and genera are very numerous and almost always valid. It is a misfortune that his valuable monograph on the *Crambidæ* was issued so nearly simultaneously with the worthless writings of Francis Walker on the same subject, so that some of our North American material has been twice named. The evidence seems to be that Zeller's paper may have been earlier. As a matter of justice it should have priority. In a series of articles, published since retirement from official duties, Prof. Zeller described a number of moths from North America. Rather more than the, unfortunately not to be avoided, proportion of synonyms mark the papers, which are otherwise models of what descriptive work ought to be. Still later, Professor Zeller has published a beautifully illustrated volume on microlepidoptera and has given a classification of *Chilo*. As I remember him, in 1867, Prof. Zeller was a white-haired gentleman of very kind manners and enthusiastic for his favorite science. He was moderately thin and tall, wearing a slight whisker, but otherwise with clean shaven mouth and face. His nose was large and well-shapen, his eyes bright and the whole expression of his face pleasing. He had high cheek bones and his countenance was unmistakably German in its salient features. Loew, the celebrated dipterist, was then living in Meseritz, and an entomological excursion which I made with these two celebrities is among the most pleasant of my

European reminiscences. Prof. Zeller's home relations were of the happiest, and the sympathy of an amiable and considerate wife was his through life. And it was a life devoted to science and learning. His accomplishments as a linguist and teacher were well known and appreciated in Germany. We know him chiefly as a biologist, the describer of the exterior structure of lepidoptera. He was fortunate enough to avoid much of the controversial spirit which accompanies descriptive entomology. Although he felt deeply the uselessness of the British Museum Lists and his own studies were impeded thereby, he has, on the whole, little to say in criticism of others. He was not only charitable, but had schooled all natural irritability. His assistance was freely given to others, and Mr. Stainton's work on the *Tineina* acknowledges its value. He was a type of a kindly German pedagogue and naturalist which hardly exists elsewhere. A. R. G.

BOOK NOTICES.

AN EXCELLENT BOOK.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, a beautifully printed volume of 436 pages, illustrated with 440 wood cuts, entitled "Insects Injurious to Fruits," by William Saunders, the well known editor of the *Canadian Entomologist*. A careful entomologist, an experienced agriculturist, an able chemist, Mr. Saunders unites the qualities necessary to produce a valuable work on Economic Entomology and, in fact, the volume before us is, without any doubt, the most able contribution to a knowledge of its subject in the English language. We say this with an acquaintance of what has been published both in England and America upon this subject. In addition to its practical and scientific value, which should recommend it to every orchardist and entomologist in America, it is written in a particularly clear and unaffected manner, so that the information it contains is readily assimilated by the reader. The illustrations are superior to anything yet published in this style. While many of these have appeared in Government or State Reports, many are original and these are better than any we have yet seen. Take, for instance, fig. 173 (*Apatela*) or fig. 208 (*Dynastes*), these figures seem the perfection of drawing. The arrangement of the contents is very convenient. The different fruit trees and plants are treated in turn with the species injurious to each and the remedies following. Sixty-four numbers alone are given to the apple, which attracts so many injurious insects that an old apple orchard is a place of infection for a wide dis-



Grote, Augustus Radcliffe. 1883. "Zeller, P. C. [Obituary]." *Papilio* 3(5-6), 120–121.

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