

It will be seen from this brief sketch that although the difficult engineering problem of the distribution of the pressure of the wind on large structures is not solved, yet when the investigation on the lateral extent of gusts which is now in progress is completed, the only further information which the designer will need is that of the maximum wind velocity which is likely to obtain on the site of the proposed structure.

T. E. STANTON.

#### BRITISH MUSEUM GUIDE TO INSECTS.<sup>1</sup>

THE publication of this work furnishes a delightful companion to the charming and highly instructive series of insects exhibited in the gallery of the Museum of Natural History. To the naturalist as well as to the layman this exhibition of the bionomics of the Insecta is a living expression of the incessant

interest from agricultural or horticultural points of view have been chosen.

The guide is embellished with a number of full-page illustrations, in addition to the numerous figures in the text. With one or two exceptions these have been specially prepared from specimens in the museum, and they help us to an understanding of the text which renders them practically indispensable. In the classification of the Insecta, nine orders are represented in the following sequence:—Aptera, Orthoptera, Neuroptera, Trichoptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, and Rhynchota. A diagram is given showing the relationship which is believed to exist between these groups, and representatives of a great number of suborders and families are described. Attention is directed to the fact that the guide refers only to the small representative series of insects exhibited in the public gallery; the main collection, which is reserved for the purpose of study in the basement of the institution, contains 1,150,000 specimens, and comprises about 155,000 named species, occupying 13,000 drawers and 602 store boxes. This enormous collection is always available for study, and students at all times receive every attention and assistance at the hands of those who are in charge of the various departments.

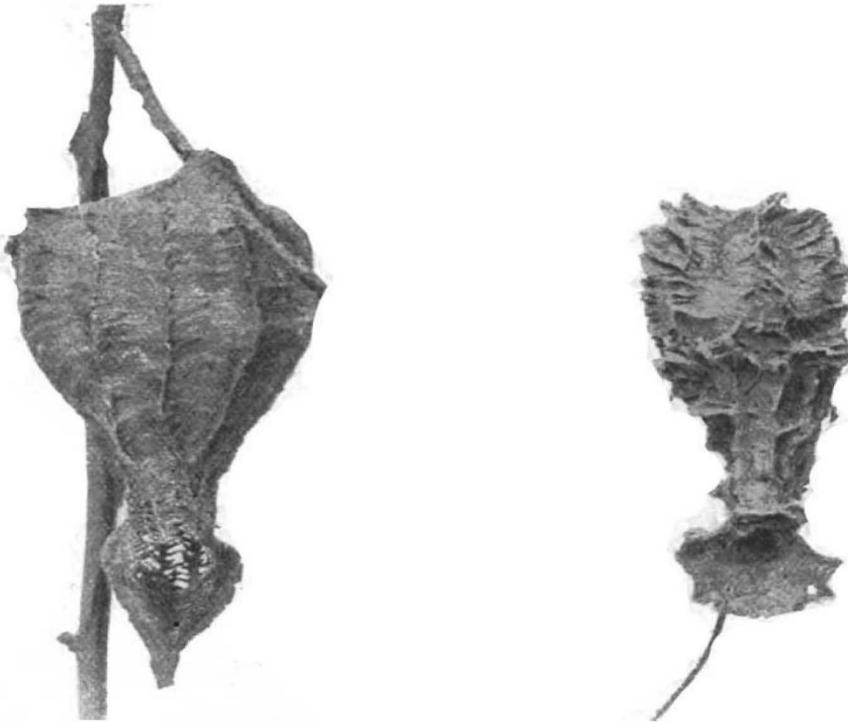
In revising this guide we would suggest that reference letters be given to Figs. 14 and 19; that the word *tibia* be added to the diagram in Fig. 18; and that the magnification of Figs. 40, 57, 58, 61, and 62 be indicated.

PROF. K. A. MÖBIUS.

PROF. KARL AUGUST MÖBIUS, for many years director of the Zoological Museum in Berlin, died on April 26 at the age of eighty-three. He was a notable naturalist, with a broad and cheerful outlook, greatly interested in the habits of creatures, and enthusiastic over their beauty. There are few zoologists who do not know "The Fauna of

the Bay of Kiel" by Möbius and Meyer, the two volumes of which form a rich storehouse of observations on the bionomics of a shallow sea. Möbius was probably the first to establish a salt-water aquarium in Germany, and he helped to start the famous zoological garden at Hamburg. He had, indeed, a strong practical sense, and made many useful suggestions in connection with fisheries, oyster-culture, and the harvest of the sea in general.

Möbius was born in 1825 at Eilenburg, in the Prussian province of Saxony; he was trained as a school teacher, but his enthusiasm and ambition were roused by reading the works of Alexander von Humboldt, and he went to Berlin, with a light purse, to study natural history. By giving lessons to others he was able to afford a university training, and he sat at the feet of men like Ehrenberg and Johannes Müller. He became assistant to Lichtenstein, who helped him in 1853 to a congenial teaching post in



Nests of species of *Ischnogaster*, nat. size. Photographed from specimens in the British Museum (Natural History).

activity of those who are responsible for its display, and although Mr. Charles O. Waterhouse informs us that "considerable time must necessarily elapse before the exhibited series of insects can be completed," and that the guide must be looked upon as a provisional one, yet in its present form it gives groups of properly organised facts which cannot fail to instruct and diffuse knowledge by making the study of these animals clearly interesting and accessible to the public.

A legible plan of the gallery is given, and bold reference numbers in the text will enable the visitor to find with facility any group of insects in which he may be specially interested. Where necessary models are given to illustrate the metamorphoses of various insects, and where possible species likely to be of in-

<sup>1</sup> "A Guide to the Exhibited Series of Insects in the Zoological Department (Insect Section), British Museum (Natural History), London." Pp. 59; with 62 illustrations. (Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1908.) Price 1s.