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The illustration this month represents two rare Hesperids, which were described in Vol. I, p. 23, of ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS. Owing to circumstances the figures could not be given sooner. The plate represents the so called half-tone process of photo-engraving invented by Mr. Ives, of this city. The plate was made by the Crosscup & West Company of 911 Filbert Street, Philadelphia. In previous issues we have presented a number of plates made by the Crosscup & West Company, and it can be readily seen how well adapted the method is for illustrating objects in this branch of natural history. Perhaps the greatest advantage of the method is its comparative cheapness. The older plan of lithography is an excellent one, but it is a luxury that can only be enjoyed by the wealthy, as it necessitates the employment of an artist to make the drawings, and a lithographer to do the lithographic work and printing, all of which are expensive. A plate by the Ives process can be made from a good photographic print of the object, but it is best to have it made from the negative when possible. If the photograph is made on one of the new orthochromatic dry plates, the true color values of the object will be obtained. One of the great drawbacks to the study

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OF *Amphion nessus*, Dr. Holland is recorded as saying (in Smith's "Sphingidæ of America North of Mexico," page 126) that "if flying in the middle of the day he 'has noticed that it always keeps in the shadow, or slyly hovers about among the thick masses of the *Syringa* blossoms in the deep umbrageous recesses, where it is not easily reached by the net of the collector.'" This is at variance with my observation. June 1, 1890, I collected some 18-19 imagines (imagoes) in the hot sunshine, between 1 and 3 P.M., all feeding on the flowers of Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*). My attention was called to the spot in a swampy meadow in one of our suburban districts of Westchester County by a few fine *Papilio lurnus* hovering over the blue masses of *Iris*. The *A. nessus* had no opportunity to hide in trying to obtain nectar from the open flowers of Blue Flag, and was easily taken while exploring the tubular *Corolla* for dainties. Out of some twenty specimens I saw on two successive Sundays feeding on *Iris versicolor*, I only missed one. Neither did they exhibit any greater shyness than does *Hemaris thysbe* visiting the thistle flowers. Of course the large flowers of Blue Flag do not compare favorably with the thyrses of Lilac blossoms, many hundreds of which are closely crowded together, and a hawk moth in visiting its flowers, of necessity must frequently appear to be in the shadow of the larger flower truss of *Syringa vulgaris*, or *S. persica*. In July, 1889, I took a single specimen of *A. nessus* feeding on the flowers of a *Deutzia crenatà*. I could not readily take it, because it so dodged in and out among the white flowers of the drooping *raceme*, that it was difficult to follow its rapid movements. Go to Blue Flag when in flower, and it is not difficult at all to take *A. nessus*.—R. KUNZE, M.D.

IN some years' collecting in Essex County, N. J., I have always noted, with more or less interest, the small colonies of one of our common "lady birds," *Megilla maculata*, which hibernate under leaves, stones, etc., through the Winter. These colonies have always ranged from 100 to 200 individuals with occasionally one of some 500. On March 6th I found one of unusual size, and being curious as to the number it contained, I collected the entire colony with the help of my brother. It numbered 1412. They were on the south side of a chestnut tree under a small cluster of old chestnut burs. I thought this large number collecting, whether for social or sexual purposes (and I am inclined to think the latter has a good deal to do with it), might be interesting to some of the readers of ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS who are coleopterists.—RALPH HOPPING.

A WORD about *Argynnis idalia*, which are with difficulty taken even when feeding on their favorite swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). Not far from New Rochelle, Westchester County, N. Y., in a wet swamp, I obtain some specimens every season. In July, 1890, when this milkweed was in full flower, I went there as usual with my largest net, fifteen inches in diameter, with which I can capture twice the number than with an