

February 23, 1893.

Sir JOHN EVANS, K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., Vice-President and
Treasurer, in the Chair.

A List of the Presents received was laid on the table, and thanks
ordered for them.

The following Papers were read :—

- I. "On the Mimetic Forms of certain Butterflies of the Genus
Hypolimnas." By Colonel C. SWINHOE, M.A. Communi-
cated by Professor E. RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S. Received
January 28, 1893.

(Abstract.)

The object of this investigation is to study the changes undergone
by the species of a small group of Butterflies as they are traced from
one locality to another, and to ascertain the bearing of these facts
upon the theory of mimicry.

We find the representatives of the Indian *Hypolimnas bolina*
in a long list of localities in Malaya, Polynesia, and Africa: the
local representatives differ from each other and from the Indian form,
but they agree in possessing in one or both sexes a more or less
superficial resemblance to some conspicuous species belonging to a
specially defended group and inhabiting the same locality; the same
is true of the three forms of the female of *Hypolimnas misippus*.

The facts afford the most convincing evidence of the truth of the
theory of mimicry enunciated by H. W. Bates.

The study of these numerous but closely-related forms belonging
to the genus *Hypolimnas* also throws light upon such interesting
questions as :—

- (1.) The special liability of the female to become mimetic.
- (2.) The ancestral form from which the various mimetic varieties
have been derived.
- (3.) The mimetic resemblance to different species in the same
locality.
- (4.) The divergent conditions under which mimicry appears in
closely-related species.
- (5.) The relation between selection and variation in the production
of mimetic resemblance.