









others, I was able to show that Meldola's generalisation may be still further extended and may be made applicable to the whole of the scattered small groups and isolated species which are defended by the possession of such unpleasant attributes, the convergence being often *independent of relative affinity*. If such insects are looked at as a whole, it is seen that the same colours are repeated again and again, and are those which are known to produce the greatest effect upon the vertebrate eye. So, also, there are a few eminently conspicuous and simple patterns which are met with again and again in totally distinct groups of insects. The advantage of this convergence in colour and in pattern is certainly found in the fact that it facilitates the education of the vertebrate enemies of insects. Such convergence also passes into and always contains an element of true "mimicry"; and Dr. Walker will find an example of the undoubted protective effects of "mimicry" among our own lepidopterous fauna, which I proved by experiment during the past summer (*P. auriflua* and *L. salicis*. *Abstract of British Association at Manchester*, Section D). Further references and details upon the subject will be found in my paper in the *Zool. Soc. Proc.*, and I have only here attempted to bring forward mere notes of the course of our knowledge on this most interesting subject.







