

followed and we remained good postal friends for the rest of his life.

Hancock was a plumpish auctioneer from Birmingham who was less a naturalist than a collector of many things varying from Japanese sword hilts to natural history objects. He offered to sell me F. P. Smith's collection of spiders, microscope and lantern slides for £100 in 1928. Ultimately he bequeathed all his collections, I believe, to a Birmingham Museum.

Carr was an extremely energetic spider collector with an uncle, a professor at Nottingham, who had inspired his interest. Jackson went collecting with him and regarded him as an amusing enigma with a hardware shop in Lichfield which, he said, stocked a lot of useless objects for sale. My contacts with Carr were in my university days when he offered to exchange a collection of northern spiders for my stamp collection.

Donisthorpe struck me as being rather a lonely and friendless individual in his old age who was devoting his later years to work on beetles at the British Museum when I met him. He had been the leading

authority on British ants and in searching their nests for myrmecophilous insects he had made an important contribution to the spiders associated with them.

H. Wallis Kew worked in a bank and made himself the leading authority on pseudoscorpions. Occasionally he collected spiders, including *Hyptiotes* in Ireland. By the time I corresponded with him in the late 1930's he had not only retired but expressed himself as having completely lost interest in arachnids. He had even destroyed all his own records. His valuable work, he felt, had been outdated by the discovery of fresh characters which he had overlooked.

Looking backwards, we should surely be grateful to the distinguished amateurs who have given us such a splendid basic knowledge of British Spiders. J. Blackwall, O. Pickard-Cambridge, A. R. Jackson, G. H. Locket and A. F. Millidge in succession have spanned more than a century with their major works.

The use of glass beads when examining spiders

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It is often difficult to keep spiders in suitable positions when examining them in spirit. Recently I tried using some of the glass beads that are used in chromatography with what I considered to be very satisfactory results. However, before writing a note for the Bulletin, I asked several arachnologists to try them. All found them useful and Mr G. H. Locket wrote:— "They seem to work splendidly. You can sit a spider on its tail and look at its eyes, you can deal easily with that type of specimen (which occurs very often) which has its legs stretched out and upwards, which is otherwise very tiresome to get into position. In order to see if there was any grinding effect, resulting in the removal of hairs, I carried three

Pocadicnemis about with me in a tube half filled with beads for a couple of days. No hairs, spines or trichobothria seem to be missing. Sometimes beads will get lodged in awkward places, but hitherto I have always succeeded in removing them easily. This is a very useful tip . . .". Mr. J. R. Parker wrote:— "The beads are excellent for the use you describe. I have used them to examine very small spiders which can be gently pushed down into them in any position, where they stay without any tendency to float away or fall out of the desired position. When looking for the position of the trichobothria on the metatarsus of one of the first pairs of legs, the beads reflect the top lighting so that visibility is actually improved".

The glass beads for chromatography, approximately 80 mesh, cost £1.80 for a bottle of 500 g and were obtained from The British Drug Houses Ltd., B.D.H. Laboratory Chemicals Division, Poole, England.