

curious tenants of the houses may be mentioned a tiny phasmid noticed on one of the plants in the autumn of 1904.

The real difficulties connected with the study of these exotic forms arise from the inability of determining with accuracy the place of origin of the different species, and from the trouble experienced in getting into touch with specialists in the various branches represented by the different creatures. Yet, in connection with the shells and the ants at least, we have achieved some success, and we venture to think that a few notes regarding these branches of natural history as exhibited in the hothouses may not be unwelcome to those who have hitherto regarded these buildings as strictly reserved for plants.

#### SHELLS.

Of shells, we make out at present seven exotic species, exclusive of the possibly imported but genuinely British *Cecilioides acicula*, Müller, a dead specimen of which was found on the under side of a brick in the old Fern-house, on February 28, 1905.

**Stenogyra goodallii**, Miller.—A very common hothouse species, *Stenogyra goodallii*, Miller, a transparent white turreted shell, flourishes in the side pots in the hotter portion of the Palm-house, where we noticed it first on June 9, 1904.

**Hyalinia cantabrica**, Westerl.—In the old Fern-house, where *Cecilioides* occurred, a large dark *Hyalinia* used to thrive among the gravel covering the various platforms, and probably still exists in the new locality to which the gravel has been removed. This has been identified by Mr. G. K. Gude as *Hyalinia cantabrica*, Westerl., a native of Spain. A second species of *Hyalinia*, small and delicate, from a different hothouse, cannot be determined at present.

**Zonitoides minusculus**, Binn.—Much smaller than this last-mentioned shell is a white helicoid species, which Mr. Gude thinks may be *Zonitoides minusculus*, Binn., a native of the United States of America and of Japan.