

## Concerning Dr. John B. Smith at Dublin, New Hampshire.

By HARRISON G. DYAR.

We dislike to take up space in scientific periodicals for purely personal discussions, but as the NEWS is not always strictly scientific and as such matters are generally lively and no doubt interesting to some of our readers we will comment on Dr. Smith's comments.

Dr. Smith is evidently "enjoying" the situation solely because his name was not mentioned in my article. The omission was intentional and made in the interest of accuracy. My examination of the territory and subsequent report were quite uninfluenced by any expression of opinion on the part of Dr. Smith. It is easy for Dr. Smith to say, after the fact, that he pointed out the pond in question; but at the time he merely said that it had a favorable appearance. Owing to an unfortunate coincidence, following the regrettable action of Dr. Stowell in desiring an examination by Dr. Smith without my knowledge and before my own examination was completed, I was obliged to enjoy the pleasure of Dr. Smith's company on the tour of inspection of the ponds and marshes conducted by Dr. Stowell. The marsh in which I discovered the breeding-place of *Mansonia perturbans* was the only likely place that we saw on the trip, and if Dr. Smith had not been of the opinion that it looked favorable, he would have exhibited less acumen than I suppose him to possess. It is, however, a gratuitous assumption for him to imagine that my judgment was influenced in the least by his opinion. His company was forced upon me, his advice was not asked, and any acknowledgment of his connection with the matter in my report would have been both superfluous and misleading. My idea of the giving of credit is that it is due in cases where some service has been rendered or some information given whereby the recipient has profited, and in such cases I always gladly give credit. But where expressions of opinion are voluntarily proffered, which coincide with views already held by the recipient, even when such opinion proves

later to have been well founded, it is clear to me that no acknowledgment is due. In the present case I am the more disinclined to make any mention of Dr. Smith in the matter, even to state that he expressed a favorable prognosis, because he was injected into a situation which I considered well in hand, quite without my previous knowledge or desire.

Dr. Smith states that all the information about *Mansonia perturbans* comes from himself or his assistant, Mr. Grossbeck. This is a most disingenuous statement. I happen to know that Mr. Brakeley made all the discoveries in the case and sent his voluminous notes freely to Dr. Smith, and I am astonished that Dr. Smith should attempt to divert credit to himself from a most generous and warm-hearted, if non-publishing, friend. For myself, who am neither generous, nor, I fear, at present particularly friendly toward Dr. Smith, the attempt to annex credit is explicable on the ground that Dr. Smith's point of view is too self-centered to allow him to read the situation in its true aspect.