

sold at about a third of the price of ordinary hair brooms, and less than a quarter of that of the best. At Messrs. Bright's works at Rochdale, "Kittool" fibre has been for some time in use with remarkable success, and it is coming into general use in some parts of the United States. The makers also do a considerable trade with the Continent of Europe and the British Colonies.

Other minor uses for the fibre in its own countries are as fishing lines and bowstrings; there is also a woolly material found on the petiole, which is used as oakum in caulking ships. This fibre is by no means a new article of trade in England, having been more or less in use for thirty-five years; and, as it is growing in estimation, and the demand is rapidly increasing, there appears to be a prospect for a new industry in Queensland by its production. If it will pay to grow the cocoa-palm, it is worth considering if the "*Caryota urens*," a tree of as rapid growth, the leading product of which is easily prepared in its raw state for shipment, may not deserve the attention of our coast farmers.

The "*Caryota urens*" is fruiting now for the first time at Bowen Park, and, so far as I am aware, for the first time in the colony. It is, like the *Raphia* Palm of which I spoke last, a prolific bearer; and there will be abundance of nuts from which to raise plants for distribution. A handsome example of the tree may be seen at the corner gates of the Houses of Parliament, opposite the Queensland Club.

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## EXHIBITS.

By Mr. L. A. Bernays, specimens of different portions of *Caryota urens*, and of products derived therefrom.

By Mr. H. Tryon, the following insects, viz. :—Moths of a species belonging to a genus allied to *Plusia*, the caterpillars of which had recently been destroying the different naturalized and indigenous species of *Amaranthus*, and which appeared to be the Australian representative of the destructive Gamma moth of Europe—*Plusia gamma*, Linn.



He also exhibited examples in all stages of a species of *Epilachna*, a voracious beetle usually found feeding on *Solanum nigrum*, but also affecting the tomato, the potato, and other plants of the same natural order. In reference to this exhibit it was pointed out that it was the character of the *Coccinellidæ*, of which *Epilachna* was a member, to occur at times in immense swarms, and that in the event of such an occurrence potato-growers in Queensland would be great losers.

Two other insects were also exhibited by him as being natural enemies to larvæ of the *Epilachna*, viz.:—a small ichneumon, to whose fatal attacks they were especially subject, and a moth (Fam. *Aluctidæ*), whose caterpillar appeared to devour the chrysalis cases.

Mr. G. Watkins remarked that this beetle had already done great damage to potato-growers in the Moreton District.

Mr. H. Tryon also exhibited a worn valve of the shell of a *Trigonia*, found recently at Camboyuro, Moreton Bay, representing a species which he stated to be apparently different from those hitherto described.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1886.

THE PRESIDENT, L. A. BERNAYS, ESQ., F.L.S., ETC., IN  
THE CHAIR.

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FORBES' FUND.

A letter was received from His Excellency the Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G., enclosing a contribution of £5 to the Forbes' Expedition Aid Fund, which it was announced now amounted to £90.

A letter was also received from Mr. W. M'Ilwraith, of Rockhampton, proffering assistance to any members who might be desirous of inspecting the recently discovered caves in that neighbourhood, and Mr. W. D. Nisbet was requested to make his contemplated visit to Rockhampton the occasion of a visit to them.



Bernays, Louis Adolphus. 1887. "Exhibits." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 3, 35–36. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.351065>.

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