

from a review of Robert Mays: *Henry Doubleday, the Epping naturalist* by Adrian Smith (subject consultant for the biological sciences at Leeds University Library) and the usual features, is taken up with seventeenth-century subjects. Kenneth Carroll enumerates "Quaker attitudes to signs and wonders"; Craig Horle's "Judicial encounters with Quakers, 1660-1688" gives us the benefit of his detailed researches in a field which used particularly to interest Alfred W. Braithwaite, our former editor; and Barry Reay, who is working for an Oxford D.Phil., prints two manuscript addresses by Edward Burrough to the Parliament and the Army illustrating the part which he was attempting to play in the troubled year before the Restoration. The documents in question are among the Rawlinson Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library.

Henry Doubleday

Henry Doubleday, the Epping naturalist. By Robert Mays. Printed and published by Precision Press, Marlow, Bucks. 1978. pp. xi, 118; 2 plates. £4.20.

Henry Doubleday (1808-1875) and his brother Edward (1811-1849) illustrate both the amateur and professional contributions made to science. Edward held a post with the British Museum, while Henry remained an amateur, collecting, recording, and corresponding extensively while depending on the family business for his income. Today natural history retains the interest of many amateur scientists, but other branches of science are dominated by institutions and professional scientists.

The family business, founded by Joseph Doubleday in 1793, became a flourishing hardware and grocery trade, and was continued by Benjamin and Mary Doubleday, Henry's parents. Joseph and Benjamin both played a part in local affairs, for example as members of the Turnpike Trust. Henry succeeded his father as Treasurer of the Highway Trust (which carried a salary) as he inherited the grocery business at the end of 1847.

Henry's special interests were ornithology and entomology. Conservationists today might deplore the methods of nineteenth-century collectors, shooting and stuffing birds, taking eggs from nests, and pinning insects. Henry was a skilful taxidermist and his work was seen at the Great Exhibition. He records "a very fine specimen of the Green Sandpiper which I shot here about two weeks since without spoiling a feather, and it has made a very

nice bird. It is very rare here . . ." His collection of butterflies and moths can be seen in the British Museum (Natural History), and the "sugaring" method which he pioneered, is still used by collectors (see for example M. Britton in *Entomologist's Record*, 1975, pp. 213-217).

Doubleday contributed to journals, notably the *Entomologist* and the *Zoologist* edited by another renowned Quaker naturalist, Edward Newman. Charles Darwin has quoted a letter from Doubleday which appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. His major publication was a list of British butterflies and moths, the *Synonymic list of British Lepidoptera*, which went some way to reduce confusion in nomenclature. From his surviving letters it is clear that he kept meticulous records, but no diary has come to light and little of his correspondence with other naturalists has been preserved. Much of his specialist knowledge must have been lost to us with his death, but some has been assimilated into the writings of his contemporaries.

In 1866 a local bank collapsed, and to this may be traced Henry Doubleday's bankruptcy in 1871, although it may be inferred that his devotion to his pastime caused him to neglect the business. At this time he was in ill-health and Ratcliff and Barking Friends found it necessary, at the expense of the monthly meeting, to place him at The Retreat at York. On his arrival there, he was "a good deal exhausted and in a state of great nervous agitation" and "troubled with delusions of ruin", but within a few months he was able to return to his old home at Epping. A trust, established by Friends, secured some of his books and collections, and supported him until his death in 1875.

Henry Doubleday had a cousin and namesake at Coggeshall, who is remembered for the introduction of comfrey to British agriculture, and is commemorated in the Henry Doubleday Research Association. Henry Doubleday of Epping, and his younger brother Edward, were no less eminent.

Letters from Henry Doubleday to Dr. T. C. Heysham were extracted by R. Miller Christy in *Birds of Essex* (1890). Some letters to Thomas de Grey (Lord Walsingham) are now in the British Museum (Natural History); other letters, to Thomas Dix, are in the library of the Essex Field Club, and the Gaze family have some Doubleday correspondence. Other letters may yet come to light, but fortunately the author of this memoir has been able to supplement these records from personal reminiscences, and shows clearly the basis for Henry Doubleday's reputation among contemporary naturalists in Britain and throughout Europe.

Robert Mays is a member of Bardfield meeting, and is himself a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society; he has taken advantage of his retirement to set down this affectionate account of a noted Quaker naturalist.

ADRIAN SMITH