

MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

Meeting No. 19, held at Mr. Gibson's rooms on January 19th, 1905; nine present. The chair was taken by Mr. Arthur Gibson, who stated that the proceedings this year would be of the same nature as heretofore, viz., that each member would be called on in turn, and he trusted that all would endeavor to bring something to exhibit, or some note to read at each meeting of the Branch. In the past this plan had proved so successful that he considered it probably the best way of keeping up the interest. Every actually observed fact was of value, however simple and unimportant it might seem to the observer who made it. Accordingly he called upon every one present in turn and a most instructive evening was passed.

Mr. W. Metcalfe showed a collection of about 100 specimens of all orders which had been collected by him when carrying on his own investigations among the small Heteroptera. His material in his own specialty was not yet sufficiently in order to bring before the Branch, and he asked Dr. Fletcher to speak of any of the specimens in the other orders which seemed worthy of mention. Several rare specimens of flies, beetles and sawflies were then exhibited and short statements made concerning each.

Mr. Norman Criddle, one of our members, from Aweme, Man., described the physical nature of that part of Manitoba where he lived and pointed out the exceptionally suitable character of the locality for collecting insects and plants. He also showed an interesting series of Tiger beetles taken on the drifting sand of an extensive tract of sand hills lying south of Douglas on the C.P.R., and about 12 miles east of Aweme. These specimens included the beautiful local variety of *Cicindela formosa*, which has received the varietal name of *Manitoba*, Leng; *C. venusta*, *C. purpurea*, var. *limbalis*, *C. punctulata*, and the two very interesting sand-loving species *C. lepida* and *C. limbata*. These two latter are extremely rare in collections, being found on the sea coast and on similar sandy tracts to the one above mentioned, in Kansas and Nebraska. Other striking insects shown by Mr. Criddle were a curious rove beetle named *Xenodusa montana*, var. *hirsuta*, which lives in nests of ants; a large and strong ground beetle, *Pasimachus elongatus*,