

for our entomologists, and far from discouraging those who are engaged in such attractive studies, I would urge them to perfect their knowledge by careful observations on the early stages of our lepidopterous friends and foes, so that they may make their light to shine for the guidance of their fellow students.

Next to the butterflies, the beetles have ever been the favorite prey of the budding entomologist. Very numerous, varied in form and habits, yet easy to collect and preserve, they yield themselves most readily to the formation of an attractive and easily cared for collection. The coleoptera have for these reasons been so thoroughly collected in northern countries, that there remains, even in Canada, a very small percentage of species not already known to entomologists. Even microscopic species from most remote localities, with few exceptions, prove to have received a name and character—even if the character may occasionally not be a good one, or sufficient to qualify the beetle for the position in which it has been placed. Yet there remains abundance of work for our coleopterists in the more careful collecting of the smaller species, and the preparation of accurate local lists, and especially in the study of the early stages of our beetles, since the complete life history of comparatively few species is known.

"Among the yellow pumpkin blooms, that lean  
Their crumpled rims beneath the heavy heat,  
The striped bees in lazy labor glean  
From bell to bell with golden-feathered feet."

—Lampman.

Of recent years more attention has been directed to the study of the hymenoptera, and interest in these insects has been stimulated by the publication of several fine works. The publication by Cresson of a synopsis of the families and genera, and a catalogue of the described N. A. species has much facilitated the determination and arrangement of collections, but species are being so rapidly discovered and described, that a new edition will soon be necessary to make it conform to the present knowledge of the order. To our younger members, who have not yet settled upon any special line of investigation, I would strongly recommend the consideration of this order, to which my own attention has been chiefly given for several years. The species are very numerous, more so even than the beetles, and the habits of its members are of wonderful variety and interest. From the bees, wasps and ants, with their well developed mental faculties and their highly organized family communities, we pass to microscopical forms of which a score may develop in a single butterfly-egg. The study of these insects is most absorbing, and inexhaustible fields of enquiry are open. It would be very encouraging to see more students attracted to this order; taking up special families, and by sustained and serious researches aiding in the elucidation of many perplexing problems.

"Mist of grey gnats that cloud the river shore  
Sweet even choruses, that dance and spin  
Soft tangles in the sunset."

—Lampman.

Apart from the three orders to which reference has been made, there has been but a meagre investigation of our insects, notwithstanding their claims to a due share of attention. The diptera are numerous in species and individuals, of much diversity of habit, and of great influence upon the bodily and temporal welfare of man. The order is difficult to study for the very reason that so few have devoted their attention thereto, but it affords scope for much original work, which cannot fail to be of great importance. There are probably hundreds of species now in the collections of our members waiting for some student to make them known to us.

The neuroptera and pseudoneuroptera are less rich in species, but include some of our largest and most striking insects, such as the dragon-flies.

"To-day I saw the dragon-fly  
Come from the wells where he did lie.  
An inner impulse rent the veil  
Of his old husk; from head to tail  
Came out clear plates of sapphire mail.  
He dried his wings; like gauze they grew;  
Thro' crofts and pastures wet with dew  
A living flash of light he flew."

—Tennyson.

The early life histories of insects are of great interest and value.

The same species of moderate size may be destructive in some instances and agreeably in others.

The hemiptera species exceed in number and sustenance, and are of great study. Nor are they in fact, are very common upon them by.

Even yet insects have been of the silken and grievously afflicted variety of.

The volume numerous and groups which indicate the insects is often from dian sources. they obtain with mens to special cabinet resources merely with knowledge regarding which may be and as data for.

There is a desirable and so engross one merely an insect destroyed or has accumulated published. T from any topic is far more pleasant to write about than if we have made make them part.

If gentle enough to kind that shall end and steadily, ing to renew limitless and