

coveries to be made, and of course in the less known districts in the northern and western portions of the Dominion there must be numbers of species which will one day be brought to light by the industrious naturalist. Moreover there are the life histories of the great majority of our species still to be worked out.

In many genera, too, the limits of variation of the various species have yet to be defined. I do not suppose that any two conchologists would be agreed as to the number of species, of such genera, for instance as *Limnæa* or *Planorbis* or *Sphærium* or *Pupa* or *Succinea* or *Bela* or *Macoma*, which should be entered upon our lists; and the same state of things obtains of course in many other genera.

Our first desideratum is I think a *larger number of observers*. The area to be examined is so extensive that, until in Canada we can count at least ten times as many conchologists as there are at present, we cannot hope to have the field properly covered.

Secondly, with a view to encourage or stimulate a rising generation of students, I think we ought to try and secure a more *complete National collection* of mollusca and their shells.

If proper space could be given at Ottawa to such a collection I am sure that it would be considered a pleasure and a privilege by Canadians to be allowed to make the collection as perfect as might be.

And thirdly, I think we need a *geographical catalogue* of the mollusca of Canada showing the distribution of the species as at present known. This might be on the same plan as Prof. Macoun's well known Catalogue of Plants, and I am sure that it would prove a very great help to collectors and students. Such a catalogue could, I should fancy, be prepared quite easily at the present time by the officers of the Geological and Natural History Survey from the data already in their possession.

And now in concluding this very hasty and imperfect survey of the subject, I will ask the members of the club to do what they can towards supplying the desiderata I have indicated.

Try to send a few more students into the field. Try to impress upon the officers of our National Museum the need of as complete a representation of the *recent*, as there is already of our *fossil*, conchological fauna, and if you agree with me that the time has come when our