

species from this locality, of which fully fifty are described as new species. The Proctotrypids form a family of more than ordinary interest, because all the members of it are parasites. Many of them infest the eggs of various orders of insects, and thus destroy many injurious forms; others live upon the larvæ of small diptera, etc., and one sub-family particularly infests certain small Homoptera. Notwithstanding the small size of these insects (many being very minute) they exhibit numerous and interesting modifications of structure, and afford in general good characters for the separation of the numerous genera. The American species now known, chiefly through the labours of Mr. Ashmead, are about six hundred in number, placed in about one hundred and fifty genera and grouped in ten sub-families. In Canada but little attention has been given to the collection of these minute forms and but few species are recorded other than those furnished by Ottawa. Many of the smaller species hibernate in moss and can most easily be secured by sifting such material obtained from swampy localities. A bag of moss obtained in Dow's Swamp on Thanksgiving Day, the sifting of which was completed recently, yielded quite a large number of specimens, including several of the very small *Bæus minutus*. It is our intention to prepare a list of the Ottawa species for a future issue. Mr. Ashmead has much enhanced the value of his magnificent work by eighteen plates in which the anatomy of typical species, and the various genera are illustrated by nearly one hundred and fifty beautifully drawn figures. The preparation of these plates and of the voluminous text have required skilful and patient labours which can be best appreciated by students who have themselves attempted the collection, classification and description of similar micro-organisms; labours which have their reward chiefly in the assurance of more accurate knowledge acquired and distributed during the years of their faithful performance.--ED.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOIRÉE NO. 1.—On December 12th our talented President, Dr. Dawson, delivered a most interesting Inaugural Address, which we have the pleasure of presenting to our readers in this number. A valuable