

In the absence of the Secretary, the President called Mr. J. B. Smith to act as such during the reading of the address, and Vice-President Miss Mary Murtfeldt occupied the chair during the delivery of the

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

BY HERBERT OSBORN, AMES, IOWA.

The Entomological Club has reason to congratulate itself upon the favourable conditions under which it meets. We are here in our national capital, a city in which every American feels a pride, and the beauty of which can but favour our enjoyment. We are in the centre of entomological activity for the United States—and I am tempted to say for the world, for I believe we should have to make diligent search to find any community where so many skillful entomologists are devoting their entire time to entomological problems.

We have here one of the finest insect collections in the country, a collection unique and invaluable in the richness of its biological material, and one which has already become of great use and a Mecca to entomologists all over the country. With all these favouring circumstances we can most certainly expect a profitable meeting, and I feel perfectly safe in saying that every entomologist here will return to the regular duties of his profession with renewed zeal, and with a better knowledge of the possibilities of entomological work, and a feeling that he has been many times repaid for the time and trouble he has expended in attending the meeting.

But with the knowledge of these favouring conditions and the thought of what should be expected in a presidential address on such an occasion, I confess that it is with great trepidation that I undertake the discussion of any of the many problems that are presented as living topics in the entomological field.

Our Club includes in its membership a majority of the working entomologists of America, each one, alive to the advancement of his favourite science, eagerly watching for progress in every avenue of research and keenly anxious to favour every means of promoting its interest.

Each one then, we feel, has a special interest in the enlargement of the entomological fraternity, and in the means and methods for the training of the coming generation of workers.