

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

POPULAR SCIENCE LECTURE, 1900.

One of the most enjoyable features of the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada this year was the Popular Science Lecture delivered on the evening of May 31st by Dr. Leland O. Howard, the United States Entomologist, of Washington. The lecturer is so well known as a leading and accurate authority on practical entomology that it is unnecessary to refer to that feature of the lecture. Few of our members, however, had previously had the privilege of meeting Dr. Howard and hearing him speak. For over an hour the large audience which filled the lecture hall of the Normal School was charmed with the masterly way in which the subject was presented and the beautiful slides with which it was illustrated were explained. Dr. Howard is a fluent and easy speaker, and from his perfect acquaintance with his subject he was able to convince his hearers of the importance of a knowledge of the life-histories of common insects and the bearing of this knowledge in many unthought-of ways, upon the ordinary affairs of every-day life.

In introducing his subject the lecturer spoke of the wide commercial distribution of injurious insects, which, in these modern days of rapid ocean voyages, is becoming so pronounced that quarantine services are being established in different countries in the endeavour to bar out injurious insects from abroad. As an example, he described briefly the recent carriage of the San José Scale upon nursery stock and fruits to many different quarters of the world, and mentioned the legislation which had been effected in different countries from this incitive. It was his purpose, however, he said, not to dwell so much upon this aspect of economic entomology, as to show the good which could be accomplished by well planned introductions of beneficial insects from one country to another. He told once more the well-known story of the introduction of the Lady-bird beetle *Novius cardinalis* from Australia by the United States Department of Agriculture, and the resulting saving of the citrous crops of California which had been threatened with extinction by the White or Fluted Scale, an insect which had