

has thus a new field of investigation open to him. Mr. W. H. Danby of Victoria is also an energetic collector, and our former associate in the Council, Mr. E. Baynes Reed, now resides at Esquimalt, a few miles from Victoria, and although he has not yet sent to us any account of his work, I know that he is making collections. The recent organization of a Natural History Society in Victoria may stimulate a further interest in Entomology, indeed I believe that a catalogue of the butterflies of Vancouver Island has already been published in the transactions of the Society. Several hundred miles to the north, at Masset in the Queen Charlotte Islands, there is a very careful and competent collector, the Rev. J. H. Keen, who in this farthest outpost has made most interesting discoveries, especially in coleoptera.

A considerable knowledge of the insects of the remoter regions of the Dominion has resulted from the collections made by various members of the staff of the Geological Survey; prominent among whom may be mentioned Dr. Dawson, Dr. Bell and Prof. Macoun. There has not yet been any regular entomological work done in connection with the Survey, and it cannot be expected that the collections of insects, which are made in addition to the regular field work, should be very large or comprehensive. But our thanks are no less due to the gentlemen who have aided; for even a few specimens brought in occasionally, from the distant points reached by these explorers, may do much to help in ascertaining the geographical range and distribution of species. Reference to Volume XXII of the *Entomologist* will show that quite a long and useful list of coleoptera was obtained by collating the various short lists published in the Survey Reports. When the Dominion Museum is housed in correspondence with the value of its great collections, and room is afforded for the display of the natural history specimens collected, the explorers will feel a greater interest in the securing of specimens, and a department of entomology will probably soon be installed.

Having now made a rapid, and necessarily imperfect, survey of the districts which our members have explored in the past, or which they are still investigating, let us change our point of view, and, for a few moments, consider what attention has been bestowed upon the several orders, into which it has pleased systematic entomologists to separate the great and almost inexhaustible complex of minute forms, which are known to us under the general term Insects. From the twenty-five volumes of the *Entomologist*, I have made a list of the papers which seemed to me to be of most importance in helping us to a knowledge of the position of our workers in regard to the investigation of the several orders. The list (appended) is by no means a complete one, as numerous short papers, notes on the occurrence of species, and interesting correspondence have been omitted; my object not being to make an index of papers.

It is found that the contributions dealing with lepidoptera probably equal, in number and volume, those relating to all the remaining groups. This, however, is not surprising, for to this order belong the most beautiful examples of all terrestrial life; flowers of the air, their wings decked with all the hues that blossom or gem can show; as they wing their brilliant flight through the glad summer days, or hover radiantly over the fragrant blooms, they naturally appeal to every heart which is warmed by the least vestige of artistic or poetic taste. Dull and debased indeed in feeling, and most sincerely to be pitied, must he be who sees not some beauty, feels not something of inward pleasure, in beholding these wonderful atoms of grace and brightness.

"The dreamy butterflies  
With dazzling colours powdered and soft glooms,  
White, black and crimson stripes, and peacock eyes,  
Or on chance flowers sit,  
With idle effort plundering one by one,  
The nectaries of deepest throated blooms."

—Robert Bridges.

Apart also from their beauty of form and richness of ornament in the winged state, the lepidoptera furnish the most interesting and attractive examples for the study of the development and life of the insect, from the egg to the imago. In the larval stage they also play a most important part in the economy of nature, and make man pay tribute in varied and large measure. Yet even in this favorite order there remains plenty of work