

for the proper display of all the collections and I am therefore not reflecting on those who are in charge, but I may be permitted to express a hope that the day is not far distant when in a new museum building there will be provided adequate space for the proper exhibition of all our national collections.

The museums of McGill College and of the Natural History Society of Montreal I am sorry to say I have never seen, but they contain, I know, some valuable collections and together they must possess, I should think, the most complete series of Canadian shells in Canada.

Smaller collections are contained in the museums of the New Brunswick Natural History Society (at St. John) and the Provincial Government of B.C. at Victoria, the former collection being principally of eastern and the latter of western marine shells.

Of private collections of shells there are only very few. I am not acquainted with any conchologist possessing a collection of Canadian Atlantic shells in any sense complete. Of Pacific shells I know only of the collections of Dr. Newcombe and myself, both nearly perfect as to native species. Of land and freshwater shells of Canada it is probable that the collections of Messrs Latchford, Hanham, and myself (all members of the O.N.F.C.) are the most complete, and I am sure that I am right in saying that these collections will all of them be freely placed at the service of students wishing to make use of them.

Now though much has been done towards ascertaining the species of mollusca occurring within our limits, and towards working out their distribution within our territory, and studying their habits and life histories, there is still much to be done before our knowledge of the Conchology of Canada can be considered at all satisfactory. The labourers in the field have been so few that there thousands of square miles of land and hundreds of miles of sea coast still wholly unexplored.

The deep seas of both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts have as yet hardly been touched. The Nudibranchs of both the eastern and western seas have been almost wholly neglected. The land and freshwater shells of large tracts of our western and northern provinces are quite unknown. Even in those provinces that have been most thoroughly worked, *i.e.* Ontario and Quebec there are, I am confident, many dis-