

the occurrence of pearls in the fresh-water mussels, and Mr. Bell of the Geological Survey has collected many species in the lower part of the river.

Many members of this Society have opportunities of collecting marine shells in the Gulf of St. Lawrence,—this is also a useful field of inquiry. Rear Admiral Bayfield has made large collections in the course of his survey. My own collection contains many species. More recently Mr. Bell exhibited to us a very interesting collection from the head of the Gulf between Gaspé and Quebec. I have no doubt that much may still be done, and these shells would be of great interest for comparison with those found fossil in the tertiary clays, long since deserted by the sea. While speaking of the marine fauna, I may add that the echinoderms, the zoophytes and crustaceans, also afford fields of much interest and promise, still very imperfectly cultivated.

Of the huge province of the articulates I am almost afraid to speak. There is work here for all the naturalists in Canada for the next century. Mr. Conper of Toronto has collected and identified several hundreds of species of coleoptera; and his collection, now in the McGill College, affords a good basis for any one desirous of commencing the study of these creatures. Mr. D'Urbain of our own Society has entered on the investigation of the butterflies. With the exception of what has been done for us by the Arctic explorers, and the naturalists of the United States, the other orders of Canadian insects are almost a terra incognita. In the mean time the country is suffering so seriously from the ravages of many of the insect tribes, that the attention of Government has been attracted to the subject, and the essays produced in answer to its call, by Prof. Hind and others, show that comparatively little examination of these creatures or inquiry into their habits has been made within the limits of the Province; nearly all the facts contained in these essays, having been collected from abroad though the value of the essays published, and the large number of competitors, show that we have persons qualified for the work. For hints very useful to the young naturalist, I may refer to the papers on collecting insects, and on the distribution of insects, by Mr. Couper, published in the *Naturalist*.

Who knows anything of the myriads of minute crustaceans and aquatic worms that swarm in our waters in summer. I have seen enough to be assured that their name is legion, but I am not aware that any one has collected or determined the species