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FROM THE EDITOR'S OFFICE CHAIR.

BY R. P. DOW, EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN OF THE BROOKLYN
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Practically every periodical devoted to insect study (and there have been more than fifty such in North America) is the organ of some scientific society, and its mission is to bring to that society the credit of making permanent record of discoveries of lasting scientific value. No entomological magazine has been more than barely self-supporting, and few that much. The magazine is necessarily "dry" reading, its papers for the most part severely technical. The dyed-in-the-wool bug man rather resents popular articles dealing in generalities. The paper most esteemed is one making description of new species. Such is of value for reference so long as Science endures, but how many wish to read a minute description of the external anatomy of some insect he has never seen? Only the few specialists in that particular group. I do not believe that the average subscriber to our entomological journals finds an average of more than two interesting papers out of the dozen in an average number. The Lepidopterist does not care for a paper on *Thrips*, and so on.

It is the editor who has to read all papers. If he be "on the job" he takes down boxes of specimens and proves the correctness of every detail of synopses submitted to him. If he can understand, it follows that a specialist will have no difficulty. The editor reads painstakingly, glossary in hand. The casual reader gives two minutes, where he gives hours.

And yet every editor, while on the one hand trying to do his duty by strict Science (no matter how dry), makes his best effort