

## REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Entomological Society of Ontario have much pleasure in presenting the following report of their proceedings during the past year :

They have great gratification in stating that the work and influence of the Society have been much extended, and its membership increased by the formation of Branches in Toronto and Quebec. "The Toronto Entomological Society" was formed in February, 1896, with Mr. E. V. Rippon as president, and Mr. Arthur Gibson as secretary ; regular fortnightly meetings were held and much enthusiasm was displayed by the members. Towards the end of the year the desirability of affiliating with our Society was brought before the members, and after full deliberation it was decided to join us on the first of January, 1897, and to become a Branch of this incorporated Society in accordance with the terms of our constitution. A few months later another Branch of the Society was formed at Quebec through the exertions of our colleague, the Rev. T. W. Fyles, and twenty more names were added to our roll of membership. The old established Branch at Montreal is as vigorous as ever and continues to accomplish much good work. The Society has now four centres for holding regular meetings and promoting the welfare and extending the usefulness of the students of entomology in Canada. It is to be hoped that before long similar work may be carried on in the Maritime Provinces where little interest has yet been shown in this department of natural science, but where a great deal of important work could undoubtedly be done.

The twenty-seventh annual report on Economic and General Entomology was presented to the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario in December last, and was printed and distributed in the beginning of May. It contained one hundred and twenty-seven pages and was illustrated with one hundred and three wood cuts and six full page plates. With the exception of the first report (1870) it was the largest volume yet issued by the Society and contained more illustrations than any previous one. In addition to an account of the proceedings at the last annual meeting, the report contains the annual address of the president, Mr. John Dearness, and the following interesting and important papers : "Some insectivorous Mammals," by Mr. Robert Elliott ; "Notes on the Season of 1896," by Messrs. Fyles, Fletcher, Bethune, Moffat and Gibson ; "Entomology for Rural Schools," and "Two Insect pests of 1896," (the Army-worm and Tussock moth) by Prof. Pantou ; "The importance of Entomological Studies to an Agricultural and Fruit-Growing Community," and "Lepidopterous Pests of the Meadow and the Lawn," by the Rev. T. W. Fyles ; "Some beetles occurring upon Beech," by Mr. W. H. Harrington ; "The San Jose Scale" and "Warning Colours, protective mimicry and protective coloration," by Prof. F. M. Webster.

*The Canadian Entomologist*, the monthly magazine published by the Society, completed its twenty-eighth volume in December last. Ten numbers of the twenty-ninth volume have now been issued ; they contain 248 pages and are illustrated with eight full page plates, several of them of great beauty, and a number of original wood cuts. Among the many valuable papers published may be mentioned the continuation of the series of illustrated articles on the Coleoptera of Canada, by Prof. H. F. Wickham, which are most useful to students of this order, and are specially designed to be of assistance to beginners of the study of our beetles. It is with profound regret that the Council have learnt from Prof. Wickham that he is obliged to abandon the study of systematic entomology on account of trouble with his eyes, and they desire to express their deep sympathy with him in this affliction which so seriously interferes with his valuable and important work.

A number of interesting specimens of moths new to the Canadian lists have been added to the Society's collection by the kindness of Mr. J. Bice who has been a diligent collector at the electric lights in the city of London.

In the latter part of November, 1896, the Society removed its head quarters from the rooms it had occupied for over sixteen years in Victoria Hall on Clarence street to more accessible, commodious and better lighted premises in the Young Men's Christian Association fine new building on Wellington street. The cases of books and insects were