

mining operations ; whole mountain sides are now kept bare of any vegetation whatever by snow slides. In the more sheltered portions and on the plateaus a scanty growth of deciduous trees and shrubbery has replaced the conifers ; thousands of sheep, which are driven through the canyons up the mountain, make annually a complete sweep of the alpine and subalpine lower plants. It is no wonder under these circumstances that species peculiar to these mountains are now but few in number and rare in specimens, and that there is an undue proportion of species which are evidently immigrants from other regions. Along the base of the mountains irrigation and cultivation have effected a still more radical change and utterly exterminated the native flora and fauna. Even along the old water courses within the irrigated districts the insects have disappeared. Similar conditions prevail all over the West ; in the Southwest irrigation and sheep, and in the Northwest the axe of the lumberman, and forest fires are hard and fast at work destroying the original flora and fauna. Of course, there are in the West many square miles of virgin ground left, but if we are desirous of preserving a record of the original fauna, there is need, as I said, of a speedy exploration.

There is still very little known of the Coleopterous fauna of Lower California and more especially of the tropical part of this peninsula. How large a proportion of the Coleoptera of Alaska has been described, or is at least available for study in our cabinets I do not know, but judging from the fact that the Swedish Vega expedition brought home from the northwest coast quite a number of species previously unknown, I presume that much still remains to be investigated in the western part of Alaska and in the interior.

In the country east of the Rocky Mountains the progress of exploration has of course been much more thorough than in the newer west. Since the formation of this Club the faunas of Texas and Florida, hitherto but imperfectly known, have yielded a large number of new forms ; the White Mountains of New Hampshire have been very carefully explored, and this mountain range is the only one in North America which may be said to be thoroughly investigated, not only in regard to Coleoptera, but also some other orders. Besides this a large amount of very careful collecting has been done at many points within the Northern, Middle and Western States with a thoroughness which was utterly unknown to the coleopterists of thirty years ago, and which has, I fear, resulted, in some instances, in the extermination of a few choice species. At any rate, it