

species his way will be fairly easy, but without it the investigation will be sadly difficult, if not hopeless. Another very serious defect in the book is the entire absence of all reference to the preparatory stages of the insects, and consequently to their food-plants, habits, dates of appearance, etc. We trust that the author may be enabled to issue a second edition of the work, and make it a thorough and complete "manual" by remedying the defects we have referred to. That this may be done in a concise form and in a most useful manner is admirably proved by Stainton's "Manual of British Moths and Butterflies," which we would commend to our author as a model for imitation when he enters upon the preparation of his next edition.

C. J. S. B.

OBITUARY.

THE ABBÉ PROVANCHER.

It is our painful duty to record the death, in his 72nd year, of the Abbé Léon Provancher, who for many years, despite great discouragements and disadvantages, laboured zealously and assiduously to develop and disseminate a knowledge of the natural history of Canada, and especially of his native province. He was born in 1820, at Beçancour, Que., and for some years was Curé of Portneuf, and one of his earlier entomological writings was a list of the Coleoptera of that district. Compelled by enfeebled health to relinquish the regular and more active duties of the ministry, he removed to Cap Rouge, near Quebec, and devoted his remaining time and strength almost entirely to the study of the natural sciences. In 1869 he commenced the publication of the *Naturaliste Canadien*, and, notwithstanding many discouragements, completed in 1891 the 20th volume, when its issue had reluctantly to be abandoned through the Quebec Government refusing to continue the scanty annual grant it had received. As early as 1858 Provancher published an elementary treatise on botany, and in 1862 his *Flore du Canada*. Subsequently he devoted his attention specially to entomology, and in 1874 commenced his *Faune Entomologique du Canada*—Vol. I., treating of the Coleoptera, was completed in 1877, with three supplements in 1877, 1878 and 1879. Vol. II. was commenced in 1877 and completed in 1883, and contains the Orthoptera, Neuroptera, and Hymenoptera. In 1885-1889 he published *Additions aux Hyménoptères*, and issued Vol. III. upon the Hemiptera, which was completed in 1890. He was also an enthusiastic conchologist, and his last publication was a treatise upon the univalve molluscs of the Province of Quebec. His writings include the account of a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, an excursion to the West Indies, treatises on agriculture, etc. He will be best known, however, by his entomological work, and as he described a large number of new species and genera, particularly of the Hymenoptera and Hemiptera, it is sincerely to be hoped that his collections may be placed where the types will be carefully preserved and be accessible to students of entomology. There is a disposition on the part of some American students to ignore the work of Provancher, and to accuse him of want of care, etc., in the determination of genera and species. The enormous disadvantages under which he labored must, however, be considered, for he was remote and isolated from libraries, collections and fellow-workers, and in his writings he often laments the fact that so few could be found to take any active interest in his pursuits, or to assist him in his labors. His entomological work would have been more exact and complete had not the publication of the *Naturaliste* greatly interrupted his investigations, and forced him to spend much of his time in other directions. His labors had the result of starting natural history collections in some of the colleges in the Province of Quebec, but our French citizens do not appear to have any special leaning to the sciences he loved, and he has left behind him no entomological student of any distinction. Above all, Provancher was an ardent Canadian, strongly imbued with love of his race, language and religion, and often in his writings he impresses these sentiments upon his readers. A few years ago he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and he was also a member, active or honorary, of many other societies.

W. H. H.