

## DR. FLETCHER AS AN ENTOMOLOGIST.

BY ARTHUR GIBSON.

I am very glad indeed of this opportunity of saying a few words of one with whom it was my happy lot to be closely associated, for nearly ten years, in the official Government work of practical entomology. It is not necessary for me to say that Dr. James Fletcher was a great entomologist. This fact is widely known, not only in Canada and the United States, but even throughout the whole world. It is the people of Canada, however, who will chiefly miss his kindly help, always so cheerfully given. To Canadian students of insects, his untimely death is a terrible blow. Our entomology generally has lost one of its most accomplished exponents. Early in life Dr. Fletcher had a keen love for insects and their ways, and before he came to Canada he was familiar with the butterflies and other insects of his native land. He made a special study, however, of those kinds which are injurious or beneficial, and never lost an opportunity to add to his knowledge of these creatures, which play such an important part in the welfare of mankind. Not a few Canadians have done splendid work in entomology, from the continued encouragement and help which they received from him.

From a purely scientific standpoint Dr. Fletcher did splendid work among the diurnal lepidoptera. For many years he was intensely interested in Canadian butterflies and through his studies was recognised as a high authority on these insects by American entomologists. He was not only a student of the perfect forms of butterflies, but was deeply concerned in finding out their true life-histories. Many a long trip from Ottawa was taken by him to get the eggs of a rare species, in order that the various stages of the insect might be studied. During these collecting trips, too, many new species were discovered. If we glance through the lists of North American insects, we find that quite a number of species were named in his honour. The following is a list of the insects to which the name of Fletcher has been given:—

*Cryptus fletcheri* Provancher: Additions Faune Hyménoptérologique, 1886, Vol. II, p. 361. (= *Comsocryptus calipterus* Say).

*Xylomiges fletcheri* Grote: Canadian Entomologist, 1888, Vol. XX, p. 130. (= *Xylomiges patalis* Grote).

*Coleophora fletcherella* Fernald: Canadian Entomologist, 1892, Vol. XXIV, p. 122.