are so matured at the time of their first extrusion, they swim about with the utmost agility, and Dr. Dowler's remarks on *Pœcilia multilineata* that twenty-two young were packed away in the ovarian sac of the parent, and though no ova were discovered . . . the young fish were one-half inch long, all alike, and exactly resembling the maternal form and proportions. The parent was, it may be added, only 2 inches long. In the sea-perch (*Cymatogaster*) of British Columbia, a viviparous form 6 or 8 inches long, I counted forty-three small, perfectly formed young. They were so advanced and active that when dropped into the sea, just after being extruded from the parent by pressure, they swam away with great agility. It may be that they did not long survive, but to all appearance they were able to look after themselves. Inside the parent I found them closely packed, overlapping each other in the sac, and bathed in a clear serum or fluid, no doubt of a nutrient nature. That they have solid food is very probable in the light of the recent observations just outlined, and though no loose eggs have been noticed in the sac, such eggs may form nutriment for them after their own ball of food-yolk is exhausted.

In the higher orders, the mammals for instance, ova are produced in prodigious numbers each season, even though the young developed and born be extremely few. One author records that over 70,000 primordial eggs are produced annually in a mammalian ovary though the young born may be only one to three in the course of the year.

The survival of the fittest is a principle not applicable only to the mature period of an animal's existence, but may begin with the earliest stages of embryonic and larval life. We see that it finds illustration in the first stages of an animal's life, in the most diverse forms from Mollusks up to Man.

MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

Meeting held at residence of Mr. Arthur Gibson, 9th April, 1908. Present: Messers. Harrington, Baldwin, Letourneau, Metcalfe, Young, Halkett, Fletcher, Wilson, Newman and Gibson.

Mr. Harrington exhibited 2 cases, which contained his Ottawa collection of Chrysomelidæ. Over 100 local species were represented. This collection proved of exceeding interest to all present and much discussion took place on many of the species. Mr. Harrington drew special attention to those species which are of uncommon occurrence, some of which were repre-