

into separate branches under leaders, who are responsible for the successful working of the department under their charge, is an excellent one, and might be copied with advantage by other similar organizations.

Seventh Yearly Report on Injurious Insects in England ; by Eleanor A. Ormerod, pp. 98, 8vo., London, 1884.

It is always a pleasure to read Miss Ormerod's reports ; but that for 1883, which has just come to hand, is of particular interest to all engaged in the study of injurious insects in Canada, from the fact that it treats of many of the same and closely allied species which are now attracting attention in North America by their depredations. During the past season an enormous amount of damage has been done to our crops by the Fly-maggots, or the larvæ of Diptera. Unhappily very little is known of the life histories of these insects. Miss Ormerod is one of the few who have done valuable work in this line, and she is still directing special attention to them ; she asks for information and records of observations which may elucidate some of the unknown stages of their existence. A suggestive fact is drawn attention to, in the presence of the grubs of various kinds which infest root and other farm crops, being also found in manure, and thus carted on to the fields. This important discovery opens up a new sphere where valuable work may be done by Canadian economic entomologists and agriculturists. On this continent undoubtedly one of the chief causes for excessively severe attacks by insects is the abundant food supply provided by the large areas of the same crop under cultivation at one time, and our insect visitations have, from this cause, been generally more disastrous than in Europe ; we have thus the advantage (perhaps somewhat doubtful) of greater opportunities for thoroughly investigating them. There is no doubt that interesting results will follow if the same insect be simultaneously examined in America and Europe, and exact notes be taken of all the different stages for subsequent comparison.

A fact which must have struck every one as peculiar is the small amount of systematic work which has been done in Europe, and particularly in England, in the study of injurious insects. With the exception of the Phylloxera in France, no investigations of any importance are recorded until the last few years. Curtis's magnificent work, "Farm Insects," is of course known to all, and until Miss Ormerod began her series of yearly reports, was the only work the farmer had to refer to, and even this from its price was inaccessible to many who needed it most.