

than ever before. The thanks of the whole Society are assuredly due to the energetic and talented Editor, Mr. Saunders, who has been, indeed, its mainstay from the issue of its first number till now. It would be well if all our members would aid him, not only by contributions, but also by increasing the circulation, and thereby improving the means of support of the publication.

When I applied just now the term "limited" to our field of enquiry, I only did so when considering Entomology as one amongst a large number of sections of the great circle of natural sciences, which includes within its area the study of all things material which come within the range of man's intellectual powers. If we look, however, at Entomology and its objects alone, we cannot fail to see at once that it is practically without limit—that there is work enough for thousands of investigators for almost innumerable generations to come. And when we couple with Entomology other kindred sciences, such as Botany, Geology and Physical Geography, which are so closely allied that no student can safely overlook them, we begin almost to be overwhelmed with the vast extent of this field of knowledge that we seek to explore. So vast, indeed, is the field that no one now ventures to survey the whole of it, except in a very general way; each explorer finds himself compelled—if he would do any effective work—to confine his labour to some one or two of its sections or subsections. By this division of labour, all departments of the Science will by degrees be taken up, and much that is now a '*terra incognita*' will become familiar to the patient explorer.

In our own country—within the bounds of this great Dominion—there is need of many more students and explorers. Even in this Province of Ontario, the headquarters of our Society, where more has been done than in any other part of Canada, there is yet room for a great increase to our band of collectors and investigators. How incomplete, for instance, is even yet our list of Diurnal Lepidoptera, and how many pages are still blank in the life history of some of our commonest butterflies? Our able Editor, my excellent friend, Mr. Saunders, has done much to fill up these blank pages, and his work is everywhere recognized as thorough and authoritative; but yet there remains much more to be done, that we hope our members will before long accomplish. If we turn to Crepuscular and Nocturnal Lepidoptera, we must feel almost appalled at the extent of our ignorance. For those who have the time and the ability, I can think of no more interesting or attractive field of enquiry—none that will sooner or better repay the pains-taking student, whether he looks for fame or pleasure, whether he sighs for fresh fields to conquer, or desires to set his foot where man has not trodden before. In a department where so much remains to be done, we all, I am sure, offer a most cordial welcome to one who has recently cast in his lot among us, and has traversed the broad Atlantic in order to study the Nostuidæ of this country. I allude to Mr. George Norman, of St Catharines, late of Forres, in Scotland.

In another order of insects, the Coleoptera, much, no doubt, has been accomplished. Through the pains-taking labours of a Billings and a Pettit, not to mention other good workers, and by the aid of the great authorities in the neighbouring States, Dr. Leconte and Dr. Horn in particular, we have been able to increase our list of Canadian beetles from a few hundreds at the birth of the Society, to more than as many thousands now. But still how very much more remains to be done? What a field of labour there is before both student and collector in the Carabidæ, the Staphylinidæ, the Curculionidæ and other numerous families of beetles! May we not hope that during the coming winter our present scattered stores of knowledge will be utilized and made available for the good of all, by the compilation and publication of a large addition to our old and valuable list of Canadian Coleoptera?

If there remains so much to be done in these two favourite orders, what shall I say of the remainder, that are so generally neglected? It is surely time that some of our members should devote themselves to the working up of such interesting orders as the Neuroptera, the Hymenoptera, the Orthoptera, the Hemiptera, even if no one can be found at present to take up the study of the more difficult Diptera.

In all these orders there is the nucleus of a collection in the cabinets of our Society, while no doubt much additional material would be furnished by individuals to any member who will take up in earnest the study of any one of them. It would be a great contribution to our knowledge of Canadian insects if there could be published by the Society carefully prepared lists of as many species as possible in each of these orders. Such lists would, of course, be very incomplete at first, but they could easily be so arranged in publication that additions might be made to them at any time, as our stores of knowledge increase.