

Lehmann, Odell, Whitley, Tyrrell, McConnell and Fletcher supplied and arranged the microscopes and slides, and explained to the observers the objects exhibited. The Club is much indebted to these members for the assistance given, and the Council tenders them its sincere thanks.

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THE MICROSCOPE IN ENTOMOLOGY.

By W. HARRY HARRINGTON.

(*Read at Microscopical Soiree, 18th February, 1892*)

To the student of Entomology a good microscope and the knowledge of its use are indispensable when he desires thoroughly to decipher the characters upon which are based the determination and classification of his specimens. Many insects are so small that the naked eye can scarcely determine even the order to which they belong, and even the large species are separated frequently by the formation of the mouth parts, or other structures which require to be much magnified before they can be satisfactorily distinguished. The microscopist, therefore, can always, in the extensive field of Entomology, find ample scope for the useful employment of his valued instrument, and can always obtain abundant interesting slides for his cabinets. Hundreds of the smaller species can advantageously be mounted whole, and will make very fine slides. Especially suitable for this treatment are the minute parasitic hymenoptera, many of the smaller diptera, the plant-lice and scale-insects among hemiptera, various families of minute coleoptera, etc. All the orders will, in the earlier stages of the egg and the larva, furnish unlimited supplies of curious, beautiful and instructive mounts.

Of special organs or structures which may form worthy objects of examination, there is a wonderful variety, a portion of which only can be now indicated. Each insect, as you are aware, is composed of three distinct regions—the head, the thorax and the abdomen—although in some species these may be so modified and consolidated as not to be readily apparent. The insect also bears externally certain appendages, and is furnished with an elaborate apparatus for digestion, sensation, respiration, motion and generation.