

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XLVIII.

LONDON, JANUARY, 1916

No. 1

PROFESSOR H. H. CROFT, D.C.L.

A most interesting memoir of the first President of the Entomological Society of Ontario, by Mr. John King, K.C., has recently been published by the Macmillan Company of Toronto.* Through the kindness of the publishers we are enabled to present to our readers an excellent portrait of one of the pioneers in Canadian Entomology, who was largely instrumental in founding the Society.

Henry Holmes Croft was born in London, England, in 1820; his first schoolmasters were French and Spanish refugees from the great Napoleonic wars, who strove to make a precarious living by teaching boys in their city of refuge. From them he passed on to Tavistock House, where he received an excellent training and the foundation of a sound education. During this period, while still a mere lad, he manifested a great taste for chemistry and carried on experiments in a small closet under the kitchen stairway in his father's house, much to the annoyance and disgust of the members of the family, who showed no appreciation of a science which seemed to produce only alarming explosions and abominable smells.

After leaving school he spent a year in the office of his father, who was Deputy Paymaster-General in the Ordnance Department, then situated in the Tower of London. With him and an elder brother he walked to the Tower and back, eight miles each way, morning and evening throughout the week, and by this means acquired vigorous health and a robust constitution which continued through life. Office work was by no means congenial, and the heart of the youth was in his little den under the stairs. By the advice of Professor Faraday, whom his father consulted, he was sent to study chemistry at the University of Berlin. He did not, however, confine his attention to this subject, but took courses of study in biology, physics, anatomy and physiology, geology and kindred sciences, and became greatly interested in entomology.

* McCaul: Croft: Forneri: Personalities of Early University Days. By John King, M.A., K.C. The Macmillan Company, St. Martin's House, Bond Street, Toronto. (Price \$1.25).