

the Dominion of Canada who are in the habit of publishing the results of their observations and studies. The last volume of the *Canadian Entomologist* presents a list of forty-five contributors; and Mr. Scudder, in his review of the work done during the year 1877, to which reference has been made, gives an account of the publications of forty-one writers, seven of whom have discussed injurious insects only. We wish that this latter number had been much larger.

A marked improvement has been shown in the number, extent and character of Entomological collections, both in public institutions and private hands. It is most earnestly to be hoped that the growing appreciation of the value of these collections may demand and ensure their proper care and future preservation. To this end it is very important that each individual possessing a valuable private collection (and there are now a respectable number distributed through the several States which contain 5,000 examples) should make such arrangements for its disposition and preservation after his decease as may, within a reasonable extent, ensure its perpetuity. The authoritative statement which has been made that the extremely valuable collections of Drs. LeConte and Horn will at some future day be added to the collection which the ability and zeal of Dr. Hagen has built up at the Cambridge Museum, is highly gratifying intelligence. And in this connexion, let me endeavour to impress upon each one of you the service which you may render to science by availing yourself of every opportunity to urge upon those who have voice in the erection of buildings devoted to scientific collections, that a primary consideration be that they be made fire-proof.

The literature of our science has already become quite respectable, and its collection on our shelves forms no inconsiderable a library. The eleven volumes of the American Entomological Society represent a large amount of earnest and thorough work. The nine volumes of the *Canadian Entomologist* are replete with interest and instruction. The numerous papers scattered through the pages of the Reports of the Peabody Academy of Science, Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Science, Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Science, and others, fully illustrate the earnestness with which Entomological study is being prosecuted, and give large promise of a brilliant future. The exquisite illustrations of the "Butterflies of North America" are a credit to our country, being fully equal to the best work of the class in Europe. The publications of LeConte have given him high place among the honoured names of the fathers of American Entomology, while the writings of Hagen, Grote, Scudder, Packard, Horn, Cresson, and Uhler, represent no inconsiderable portion of the progress upon which we are congratulating ourselves. Nor can I omit reference to our European friends—to Loew, Osten Sacken, de Saussure, Speyer, Zeller, Mœschler, Butler, and others, who are freely lending us their valued aid in the descriptions of forms too numerous for our few hands, and in the solution of problems which require for their determination the study of the entire insect fauna of the eastern hemisphere in connection with our own.

The most gratifying feature, perhaps in the report of progress which I am able to present to you, is the aid which the General Government is now extending to Entomological explorations and investigations, in placing scientists in the field and in the publication of their results. Two years ago, the occupant of this chair felt called upon to express to you his sorrow, disappointment, indignation, that Congress had declined to accede to the memorials presented it, asking its recognition and acceptance of the service which applied Entomology was in a condition to render. Now, it is a cause of congratulation that the Department of Agriculture has selected as its Entomologist one whose training in the school of economic Entomology for the past ten years has specially qualified him for the responsible position he occupies; and we have the additional gratifying assurance that the Secretary of the Department is in full sympathy with our aims.

In conformity with a precedent long since established in Europe, our Government has honoured itself while honouring science, in seeking to add to the productive wealth of the country through a control of the insect depredations inflicted upon our people, to the extent of enormous annual losses, and at times, poverty and starvation. The two special Commissions which have been already appointed, it is understood are, ere long, to be followed by others. The published results of one year's labour of the Locust Com-