

amount and limits of the variations to which species are subject: a point of some importance, upon which the one or two examples, possibly from various places, found in most collections, throw no light. M. Reigen seems never to have been satisfied that he had got sufficient of one kind; and the gentleman into whose hands his stores have fortunately fallen, fully estimating the value of researches respecting the true limits of species, and the difficulties under which ordinary naturalists labour, has, not only in his noble present to the British Museum, but as far as was possible in all the collections sent out, been careful to supply good series of specimens.

3. The condition of the specimens in this collection is very remarkable. They are as they were taken from the water, without having undergone any process of cleansing or polishing. Many of the gasterapods have their opercula. The lamellibranchiata appear with their hinges undetached, and the surfaces in their original state. Even a few such objects in a large collection are invaluable, as a source of instruction, and contribute to render the ordinary specimens far more useful.

4. This collection contains a considerable number of new species. The locality was an unexamined and remarkably favourable one—in a tropical climate, and at the junction of a great gulf with the ocean. The collector devoted adequate time and great diligence to his work, and his success was fully equal to what we might expect in such circumstances.

We must regret that M. Reigen did not live to make use of his own accumulated stores, and to communicate the peculiar information which he must have gained in the course of their acquisition: but they have fallen into excellent hands. Mr. Carpenter's donation to the National Museum—considering its intrinsic value pecuniarily as well as scientifically, and the labour involved in its preparation, and coming too from a hard-working professional man, with very limited means—must be accounted a commendable example of public-spirited generosity; and his dealings with the Toronto University, even putting out of the question the very handsome present which he took the opportunity of contributing to our rising Museum, are marked by a liberality, which deserves to be felt and acknowledged.

At a meeting of the Canadian Institute, in the month of December last, Prof. Hincks exhibited to the members present a series of specimens illustrating his remarks in the previous paragraphs on the collections of Mazatlan shells. It may be stated here, that the collection acquired for the University Museum, contains about two hundred and thirty distinct species, many of them new, and a large proportion illustrated by good series of specimens. The whole number of species described as occurring at Mazatlan, approaches seven hundred; but of these a great many were unique,—not a few described from fragments—a good many others so very rare as to allow no specimens for distribution—and some were not contained in the Liverpool collection. Many, too, are microscopic, which makes the supply more uncertain. On the whole, the collection is rich as a local group, and adds greatly to the value of the conchological cabinet of the University Museum.

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