

This manner of keeping specimens will, I think, be particularly useful to collectors of Coleoptera. I send this, feeling that each member of the Society should contribute his mite of experience and knowledge for the benefit of his fellow-workers.

NOTES ON A WINTER HOLIDAY.

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During a recent holiday, while on a trip South, I spent a day among the Entomologists at Albany, N.Y. To say that it was a pleasant day, an *exceedingly enjoyable* day, would convey but a faint idea of the pleasures there experienced. Arriving early in the morning, I made my way to the State Museum of Natural History, where under the guidance of Messrs. Lintner, Meske and Hill, three veteran Entomologists, I had the pleasure of inspecting the countless rarities contained in the collections of Lepidoptera made by those gentlemen in this vicinity. I have seen many collections in the course of my wanderings, but for multiplicity of species, full series of rarities and matchless perfection of individual specimens, it had never before been my pleasure to witness anything that would compare with the valued stores contained in the cabinets of these enthusiastic collectors at Albany; and without fear of contradiction, it may be said that the Entomologists resident there have contributed more towards our knowledge of the Lepidoptera native to the northern portions of America, than any other equal number of collectors in the country. The enthusiasm they have long maintained and their indomitable perseverance have enabled them to overcome almost every obstacle and accumulate such wonderful series of specimens, especially by night captures at sugar, as no less favoured Entomologist could look over without feelings almost akin to envy. After one had seen scores upon scores of individuals of some rare Noctuid, which in one's own collection had perhaps long been represented by a treasured fragment, the question would frequently rise as to whether *anything* in this line be rare in the neighbourhood of Albany.

During the day I was also privileged to see the magnificent series of Catocalas in the collection of Dr. Jas. H. Bailey, and one could only regret that the day was too short to do any sort of justice to the mass of material to be inspected. After labouring busily from early morn until late at night, we parted at the railway station, with the most pleasant recollections of a day happily spent amidst old and and newly-found Entomological friends.

On reaching Washington, Nov'r 23, a brief visit was paid to the Entomological rooms, in the Department of Agriculture, where I had expected to find my esteemed friend, Prof. C. V. Riley, but unfortunately business had called him away from home. Through the kindness of Messrs. Pergande and Howard I was shown very many things of interest, especially in the way of insects in their earlier stages, both living in breeding cages and preserved as blown larvae, and in this way a very pleasant and instructive hour or two was spent. It was a source of grief to learn from our good friend, Chas. R. Dodge, that "Field and Forest" was about to be discontinued for want of sufficient support. This valued periodical has done good service in the cause of Natural Science, awakening an interest in this direction in many minds, and in its decease we have lost a valuable aid. It gave me much pleasure to find that veteran Entomologist, Prof. T. Glover, with health almost restored, busily engaged in his Entomological work. Through the affable kindness of Dr. T. V. Hayden, I was shown through the Department of the Interior, that great national laboratory from whence has issued so many works invaluable to the naturalist in every field of labour. After lingering long among the many interesting objects which claimed attention, I returned laden with useful works and pamphlets on subjects relating to Entomology, deeply impressed with the important work here carried on by a great and progressive nation in the interests of science; and with very pleasant recollections of the great personal kindness shown me by the worthy and distinguished head of this most useful branch of the national service.

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