

The contributions of these gentlemen are indicated by having their respective names attached.

Those who entertain the usual English idea that the Manitoban winter is an altogether unbearable one, of purely Arctic inclemency, may at first be surprised to learn that the country possesses a molluscan fauna at all ; still more that I am able to enumerate 72 species. Nor is this idea altogether unreasonable, for it certainly is somewhat surprising that so many species should be able to exist in a country where the temperature has been known to be as low as -50.5° Fahr. At the same time it should be remembered that the Manitoban summer is a delightful time.

The one great fact which must strike all observers of the molluscan fauna of Manitoba is the absence from the bare, open face of the prairies of every single species of land mollusk whatsoever. This absence, so far as my experience goes, is total and complete. On the other hand, the abundance of aquatic species is extraordinary. Nearly every one of the innumerable lakes and lakelets, so abundantly scattered over the prairies, contains a surprising number of shells belonging to several species. When the water has disappeared after a period of drought, they may often be scraped up by the handful at a time. Prof. Hind, in his "Narrative of the Assiniboine, Red River, and Saskatchewan Exploring Expeditions of 1857-58,"* says of the southern end of Lake Winnipeg: "The beach and marshes contain an infinite number of freshwater shells, belonging to the genera *Helix*, *Bulimus*, *Succinea*, *Pupa*, *Planorbis*, *Limneus*, &c. For many hundred yards the beach is covered with perfect or disintegrated forms of these shells thrown up by the waves on the sand." This statement serves well to show the enormous abundance of shells in, the Manitoban lakes ; but as only two of the genera mentioned inhabit the water, one cannot help thinking that their identification must be wrong.

* Vol. II., p. 8.