

DR. ISAAC LEA has sent us a pamphlet in which he describes twenty-five new species of Uniones, chiefly from the waters of the far-off kingdom of Siam. The extraordinary genus (*Unio*), to which these shells belong, consists of a multitude of species distributed throughout all the fresh waters of the globe. In Lea's Synopsis of the Family of Naiades, published in 1852, there are mentioned 401 species in a recent state, 97 fossil and 84 others noticed by authors, whose descriptions appear to be doubtful. In addition to these there were then known a sufficient number of forms belonging to the closely allied genera of *Anodon*, *Margaritana*, &c., to make the total 767. Many species have been since contributed, and the number is now probably over 800. Among the 25 new species described, are 14 from Siam, 1 from Burmah, 2 from the Cape of Good Hope, 1 from Sina River in India, 1 from Brazil, 1 from River Macacou, Rio de Janiero, Brazil, New Grenada, 1 from Australia, 1 from Rio Plata, 1 from Mocha in Asia, 1 from River Amazon, 1 from Medellin River, Mexico. Of all the families of the Mollusca, none has excited more intense interest in the scientific world than the NAIADES, of which the clam shells of our Canadian rivers are examples.— Among them are many very beautiful shells, and of almost every form seen in the whole range of all the other species of bivalves. Some of them are very rare and eagerly sought after. The physiological structure of the animals has engaged a great deal of the attention of the best anatomists, while the systematic zoologist has encountered here several problems of no ordinary difficulty. In this, his favorite department of science, Dr. Lea is considered the leader in all parts of the world, and has published a number of beautifully illustrated works. The Pamphlet before us also contains a paper on the new Red Sandstone of Pennsylvania, and descriptions; a new sub-genus of Naiades; a new species of *Triquetra*, and some new fresh-water shells from California.

KIRBY & SPENCE'S ENTOMOLOGY.—Mr. Dawson of Montreal has a supply of the new and cheap English edition of this highly interesting work. Our young countrymen who desire to make themselves acquainted with the manifold wonders of the insect world would do well to provide themselves with this book. We look upon this work as of the same importance in Entomology that LYELL'S PRINCIPLES are in Geology. It contains a vast fund of information relating to the Metamorphoses, Food, Stratagems, Habitations, Societies, Motions, Instincts, &c. of Insects, without which no sound knowledge of this delightful science can be acquired unless by years of labour. The book contains over 600 closely printed pages, and is sold for only 7s. 6d.

THE WORKS OF AUDUBON.—We would strongly recommend that every Public Library in Canada should purchase a set of the Works of the great Ornithologist and Naturalist, AUDUBON. Those whose funds are not sufficiently abundant to afford the very expensive editions may, without much effort, procure those less costly. It is scarcely necessary to state, that a Library with any one of the editions must rank immeasurably above others not thus furnished. These works are for sale by C. S. Francis & Co. No. 252, Broadway, New York; and for the information of parties who may desire to purchase, we shall give their advertisement entire, as we find it in their Catalogue.