

the Metamorphoses of Alaska Coleoptera, the Tenthredinoidea, and the few Sphegoidea and Vespoidea obtained. Mr. Nathan Banks describes the Arachnida and Neuropteroid Insects; Mr. O. F. Cook, the Myriapoda; Mr. Justus Watson Folsom, the Apterygota; Mr. A. N. Caudell, the Orthoptera; Mr. Theo. Pergande, the Aphididæ and Formicidæ; Dr. Wm. H. Ashmead, the Homoptera and Hymenoptera; Mr. O. Heidemann, the Heteroptera; Mr. Rolla P. Currie, the Odonata; Mr. E. A. Schwarz, the Coleoptera; Dr. H. G. Dyar, the Lepidoptera; and Mr. D. W. Coquillett, the Diptera. Each writer gives a list, with dates and localities, of the species assigned to him and describes the new forms. Altogether the entire collection consisted of 1,001 species, of which no less than 344 were considered to be new to science, and are accordingly named and described in these volumes.

It is evident from the foregoing summary that a very important addition has been made to the knowledge of the insects of the far north-western regions of North America, regarding which nothing has been known, except in the order Coleoptera, which received much attention from early Russian investigators and was more recently catalogued by the late Dr. John Hamilton. It will now be comparatively easy for travellers in the future to collect and identify the insects found in Alaska, and our friends in British Columbia will obtain in these volumes a large amount of valuable information regarding the forms inhabiting that portion of our country. To them, indeed, this work will be indispensable, and it should find a place in all the public libraries of the Province.

JOCULAR ENTOMOLOGY.

The remarks of Prof. Aldrich on the above subject in the March number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST suggest to me the existence of a good deal more humour, intentional or otherwise, in scientific (?) nomenclature than appears on the surface. It must sometimes be very difficult, if not impossible, for an author to choose a name, especially one not preoccupied, having some reference to specific characters, habitat, or *modus vivendi*, and it is quite obvious that thousands of names in existence were never intended to have any such reference whatsoever. The custom of naming things after people, whether they lived many years B. C. or in more modern times, or after classical myths, might become intolerable if carried too far, and it seems as if a little humour, which is often the fresher for being unconsciously suggested, is bound to creep in