

THE LATE MR. RITCHIE.

The late Mr. A. S. Ritchie, whose loss we have so much reason to deplore, was born at Pettenween, a small town on the coast of Fifeshire. His father, Mr. Robert Ritchie, was a magistrate of that place. Accompanied by his cousin, Mr. David Ritchie, who now resides in Brantford, Ont., he left Scotland for Canada, in 1853. He remained in Montreal one year, during which time he was in the employ of Messrs. Morrison, Cameron & Empey. He then removed to Brantford, where he resided several years, and where he appears to have been very highly respected. Finally, he returned to Montreal in 1860 or 1861, where he remained until the time of his death. In the month of May, 1864, he was elected a member of this Society, and from May, 1866, to the present year, he was, as many here well know, an active member of the Council, of which, in 1867 and the present year, he was unanimously elected chairman. He was also a member of the editing committee of the Canadian Naturalist. During the six years of his connection with this Society, he brought before us seven papers, six of which are printed in the Naturalist.

The following are the titles of the papers, and the dates at which they were read :—

March, 1865. —On the structure of insects, illustrated by microscopical preparations.

March, 1866. —On the "Walking Stick" insect, *Spectrum femoratum*.

Nov., 1868. —On the Beetles of the Island of Montreal.

Oct., 1869. —On the White Cabbage Butterfly, *Pieris rapæ*.

Feb., 1870. —Why are insects attracted to Artificial lights?

April, 1870. —Aquaria Studies, No. 1. Oct., 1870. —Aqu. Stu., No. 2.

His favourite study was Entomology, and this he pursued in a philosophical spirit, studying the habits of insects in their native haunts by day, and examining the details of their anatomy under the microscope at night. He was also well acquainted with other departments of Zoology, especially with the infusoria. A little before his decease he was preparing a lecture, "On the Inhabitants of a drop of water," for the young men connected with Erskine Church, and for this Society, a paper on a curious ichneumon parasite of the white cabbage butterfly. He died on the 13th December, 1870, at the early age of 34.

Rev. A. De Sola, LL.D., spoke of Mr. Ritchie, as a most enthusiastic member who had devoted all his spare time to the study of science, which it would be to the advantage of business men to cultivate, and he trusted that many others would follow his example.—CANADIAN NATURALIST.