

## MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

The first of the winter's series of meetings of the Entomological Branch was held at the residence of Mr. Arthur Gibson, on the evening of the 10th February. There were present: Messrs. Harrington, Wilson, Criddle, Baldwin, Young, Halkett and Nicholls, in addition to the Chairman.

Mr. Gibson had on exhibition his collection of arctiid moths of the genus *Apanthesis*. He spoke at some length on the different species and varieties represented in the cases and told of his work in studying their life-histories. Specimens of the inflated larvæ and pupæ of many of the species were also shown. The range of variation in the genus is remarkable, and has been the cause of much confusion by some of the earlier writers who had but few specimens to study. The larger number of the specimens in the cases exhibited had been reared from eggs. At Ottawa the following species of this genus have been found: *virgo*, *parthenice*, *virguncula*, *figurata*, *celia*, *arge* and *vittata*.

Mr. Norman Criddle showed a collection of Tiger Beetles from Manitoba. Thirteen species were represented in the case, most of which had been found at Aweme, Man. Mr. Criddle spoke particularly of the burrowing habits of the larvæ and on the life-histories of the insects in general. He has found that in Manitoba some of the species take at least three years to complete their life-cycle, whereas at Chicago, it has been found by Prof. Shelford, that the same species only required two years to complete their growth. The habits of cicindelid larvæ are exceedingly interesting. In Manitoba there is much difference in the depth to which the larvæ burrow for hibernation. Some species such as *limbata* and *repanda* only go down to a depth of six or eight inches, while others, as *manitoba* and *lepida* go much deeper: the former sometimes being found six and a half feet below the surface, and the latter six feet.

Mr. A. Nicholls brought two specimens for determination. These were *Thalessa lunator* and *Corydalis cornuta*. Mr. Harrington spoke of the habits of both of these insects. Referring to the latter species Mr. Gibson mentioned that both he and the late Dr. Fletcher had found it "at sugar" commonly, some years ago. It is unusual for a neuropterous insect to be attracted at night to trees on which "sugar" is put to allure noctuid moths. Speaking of attracting moths, Mr. Criddle mentioned that at Aweme the males of the Buck Moth, *Hemileuca maia*, var. *lucina*, can easily be attracted by smoke. In the sand hills near Aweme, where the moth is usually abundant, both he and his brothers had frequently made smudges of leaves and grass