

been mounted on tablets, if dry preparations, or put into separate bottles with alcohol, if the nature of the specimens required that mode of treatment. The strain upon the eyes caused by prolonged use of towing nets at sea, and in protracted microscopic work at the office, has been considerable. The correspondence involved, in order to attain successful results, has also taken up much time.

It is much to be regretted, that in consequence of lack of funds, the Society has not been able to provide suitable cases, in which these and other alcoholic preparations can be exhibited to the public. At present the collections made in 1871 and 1872, as well as many other objects of great scientific interest and value, are almost unavailable to the student, and are wholly so to the general run of visitors, for want of proper accommodation.

At intervals, when my eyes required rest, after close application to the microscope, some progress has been made in mounting my own collection of shells for the use of those who wish to consult it. About 300 species have been mounted on tablets and labelled.

During the past year the donations to the Museum have been unusually small. So far as birds and mammals are concerned, this may have arisen from the state of the law on the subject. During the last session of the Quebec Legislature, efforts were made to induce the Government to permit the granting of licenses to enable naturalists to procure specimens of birds or their eggs for bonâ fide scientific purposes. Through the kindness of the Hon. James Ferrier, one of the most generous benefactors to this Society, the requisite clause was inserted in the Act for the protection of insectivorous birds. It is hoped that the effect of this measure will ultimately be to largely increase the Society's collection of native birds and mammals.

An interesting series of the *Muridæ* (mice, meadow-mice, rats, &c.) of this Continent has been received from the Smithsonian Institute, carefully named by Dr. Elliot Coues. The collection contains many species new to our Museum, and would have been a most valuable addition to the few North American mammals in our cases, but unfortunately the skins are so badly preserved that it was found to be impossible to mount them for public exhibition.

As a cheering omen for the session just about to commence, it may be mentioned that advices have just been received of a