

COLLECTIONS OF THE LATE DR. ASA FITCH.

Having been requested by the family of the late Dr. Asa Fitch, State Entomologist of New York, to examine and report upon the condition of his great collection of insects, I visited Fitch's Point, Salem, N. Y., on the 12th and 13th of November last, and made as careful an investigation thereof as time and circumstances allowed. In the belief that the following items or notes are of general interest to all entomologists, they are respectfully submitted by Francis G. Sanborn, Consulting Naturalist, Andover, Mass. :

Dr. Fitch's "General Collection" of insects of all orders fills one hundred and six boxes ("Cartons liégés" of Deyrolle, nearly all of double depth, size 26 x 19 ½ cm.) and is now in excellent condition, suffering only to the extent of perhaps fifteen per ct. from a slight coating of dry mould, easily removed. No Anthrenids or other Dermestide is to be detected among them. Very few are badly broken or damaged, perhaps fifty in all out of upwards of fifty-five thousand numbers. Although chiefly from the U. S., the collection contains a fair percentage of European and other exotic species obtained by exchange with Drs. Sichel and Signorêt, and Messrs. Andrew Murray, Fairmain and others. The Coleoptera occupy eighteen boxes, the Orthoptera seven, Neuroptera six, Hymenoptera eight, Lepidoptera twenty-one, only four of which are Diurnal. The Hemiptera are nobly represented, the Heteropterous by fourteen, and the Homopterous by twelve; to this latter division, as most students are aware, the Doctor devoted an exceptional amount of attention, and apparently all of his types, as described in the N. Y. State Agricultural Reports for many years, are here preserved in excellent order. The Diptera occupy five boxes, and four more contain Myriapoda, Arachnida and Crustacea, chiefly terrestrial and local.

In addition, two large cases of 62 draws or slides, and several boxes of various forms, contain by rough estimate over one hundred thousand duplicate Coleoptera and above twenty thousand of all other orders, principally of the Doctor's own collecting from New York State. Many of these, however, have suffered from the ravages of *Dermestes lardarius*, though not exceeding twenty per cent. The Biological illustrations, chiefly "Galls," are now in excellent order and well arranged, but liable to disarrangement in transportation. A vast amount of patient labor is