

memoirs and books has been written, and upon the study of which animal, several great scientific reputations have been largely built. Francis Balfour, H. N. Moseley, Adam Sedgwick, and others no less eminent, owed much of their fame to researches on *Peripatus*. Yet, few zoologists have ever seen *Peripatus* "at home", and I believe that I am the first to bring living specimens to Canada. I had many memorable experiences in New Zealand; but I count it one of the greatest privileges of my life to have seen this "very beautiful looking animal" (as Dr. Arthur Shipley rightly styled it) creeping about in the moss-grown decaying logs of the primeval forest, amidst giant gum-trees, great tree ferns, and tangled creepers. Professor Kirk, of the University of New Zealand, Wellington, N.Z., kindly took me to the "hunting grounds", not far from Parirua Harbour, on the coast north-west of the capital city. With Dr. Kirk's experienced help I secured about a dozen specimens, varying in size from 2 inches up to about 3 inches in length. I kept them in a small vivarium which was maintained in a cool and damp state by sprinkling the moss and pieces of wood daily with water. The war conditions on the Pacific delayed my return so seriously that my specimens were confined in their close quarters for over 10 weeks, and many were quite moribund by the time I reached Winnipeg, in the last week of October. During their long journey of over 14,000 miles by sea and land they did well, in spite of the constant noise and vibration on steamers and cars, and they fed readily upon flies and particles of raw beef. A number of young about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in length, were produced viviparously on the journey. During the last stages of my homeward journey I forebore turning them out of their mossy hiding place, and I fear that none actually survived until I reached Ottawa. All were, unfortunately, dead when I examined the vivarium just before the meeting of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club on December 8th.

As Professor Moseley said, *Peripatus* resembles a black caterpillar, with a pair of anterior antennæ, like the mobile horns of a snail. Some of my specimens were of a deep velvety brown, not velvety black, and they are such soft, elastic creatures that they are able to stretch almost double their usual length. If touched they shorten and pull in their antennæ, and if they fall over, they writhe back, bit by bit, and regain their feet (17 pairs in *P. nova zealandia*) and glide off rapidly with a most graceful movement, waving the antennæ from side to side. On exposure to light they hasten, like slow-moving shadows, to the nearest shelter, and hide away. They are very soft and sensitive and easily injured by handling, or by pressure. I was surprised at the rapidity with which they discovered house-flies placed