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CHAMPLAIN SPORTSMAN



NATURALIST

A MONTHLY JOURNAL



VOL. III,
No. 7.
1883.

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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 7.

MONTREAL, JULY, 1883.

Vol. III.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

QUERIES.

Is the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) found in the Province of Manitoba? We are told that it does not occur there. It is not mentioned by Prof. Macoun, but it is given by Mr. Brodie in his list published in No. 4, Vol. III. of this magazine.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus Philadelphicus*) is said to nest on islands in inland lakes. Have any of our Canadian Oologists found it so situated this year? Its eggs were *desiderata* in the Smithsonian Institute collection a few years ago.

CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

In this issue, we publish a second review of M. Dionne's late French work on the Birds of Canada. It is unpleasant for us to be compelled to decry the attempts so far made by ambitious writers to produce histories or descriptions of the *avi-fauna* of this Canada of ours, but something must be done to stop the carelessness which is so conspicuous in much of Canadian ornithology. Mr. Chamberlain is correct in saying that "it is time we speak plainly about such things, if our students are to take the standing they should. American ornithologists also say that Canadian writers, as a rule, seem to know nothing about their birds, and write the most puerile trash." There is considerable truth in this statement, and to stop it some one must speak out plainly. We have had several ornithological communications from parties resident in three of the Provinces of the Dominion, but it is impossible for us to vouch for the accuracy of all the matter sent to us for publication—the writers are alone responsible for their statements—but when a wrong is detected we generally form it right. Our object since the

first issue of the magazine, was, and is to make it original regarding Canadian Natural History, to constitute it an authority for future reference, therefore we trust that our correspondents will continue to keep the serial up as a truthful record which it was our purpose it should be.—C.

CANADIAN HYMENOPTERA.

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.

In vol. I. p. 19 of this magazine, I published a portion of the HYMENOPTERA found on the Island of Montreal. The following is a list of the APIDÆ occurring in Canada up to March, 1879.

- CALLIOPSIS flavipes, *Smith.*
- NOMADA bisignata, *Say.*
- " armata, *Neh.*
- PHILEREMUS Americanus, *Cresson.*
- STELIS? nitida, "
- CÆLIOXYX 8-dentata, *Say.*
- OSMIA fœceta, *Cresson.*
- " atriventris, "
- " albiventris, "
- " Hudsonica, "
- " cognata, "
- " proxima, "
- " vicina, "
- " simillima, *Smith.*
- ALCIDAMEA producta, *Cresson.*
- MONTMERIA borealis, "
- MELICHALE melanophœa, *Smith.*
- " frigida, "
- " laticornis, *Say.*
- " pugnata, "
- " bucephala, *Smith.*
- " mendica, *Cresson.*
- " relativa, "
- " centuncularis, *Linn.*
- " brevis, *Say.*
- MELISSODES desponsa, *Smith.*
- " aurigena, *Cresson.*
- " dentiventris, *Smith.*
- " bomboides, *Kirby.*
- " abrupta, *Say.*
- APATHUS laboriosus, *Fabr.*
- " Ashtoni, *Cresson.*
- " citrinus, *Smith.*

- Bombus virginicus*, *Oliv.*
 " *separatus*, *Cresson.*
 " *Ridingsii*, "
 " *vagans*, *Smith.*
 " *consimilis*, *Cresson.*
 " *affinis*, "
 " *perplexus*, "
 " *borealis*, *Kirby.*
 " *fervidus*, *Fabr.*
 " *Pennsylvanicus*, *DeGeer.*
 " *terricola*, *Kirby.*
 " *Couperi*, *Cresson*, (Labrador.)
 " *strenuus*, "
 " *lacustris*, "
 " *ternarius*, *Say.*
 " *pratensis*, *Kirby.*
 " *Derhamellus*, *Kirby.*

Apis mellifica, *Smith.*

The following species are said to occur in Canada:—

- NOMADA punctata*, *Fabr.*
 " *armata*, *Cess.* (Nova Scotia.)
CELEXYS funeraria, *Smith.*
BOMBUS hortorum, *Lin.* (Lake Winnipeg.)
 " *Kirbiellus*, *Curtis.*
 " *polaris*, "

A DESTRUCTIVE TWO-WINGED FLY.

A few years ago, the late Benjamin Walsh published in the *American Entomologist*, some interesting remarks on the internal and external parasites which were known to him to attack man on this continent. Since then we have to record the occurrence of an insect belonging to the order DIPTERA or two-winged flies, which is said to deposit its eggs in the nostrils of man, especially when he is troubled with catarrh. The fly is said to occur in Canada. Maggots of this fly are called "Screw worms" in Kansas, where it is known to attack horses and cattle, but lately positive evidence has been produced to show that it also lays its eggs in the nostrils of man when it finds him asleep in woods or field. There are circumstances connected with the economy of many of our small insects which will take us a long time to discover. A tree flourishes and produces fruit for a time, but the moment decay is indicated in its trunk, insect parasites appear and in a few years it falls and be-

comes amalgamated with the earth from which it sprung. This is also the case with the human body, the moment that disease attack a portion of it, parasites are hovering near the spot. Therefore it behoves us to study cleanliness especially in regard to the nostrils.

We copy the following account of the hominivorous habits of the fly by F. H. Snow, Lawrence, Kansas, published in "Psyche" for March-April, 1883. There is one thing missing, that is, a good illustration of the horrid fly.

The Professor says:—

"I have from time to time had occasion to note the depredations of the screw-worm upon horses and cattle in this state, but until recently have not received positive evidence of its attacks upon human subjects in any locality so far north as Kansas. But early in September, 1882, I received from Mr. S. D. Osborn, the postmaster at Vurek, in South-eastern Kansas, specimens "of the worms which came from the nostrils of Milton Carter." These proved to be the larvæ of *Lucilia mucellaria* Fab., the so called "screw-worm." Upon further inquiry I learned that upwards of one hundred full-grown maggots escaped from the nose of this patient, who finally recovered from the serious illness consequent upon their ravages. I also ascertained that Mr. Carter had long been afflicted with an offensive nasal catarrh, which made his nostrils an attractive place for the oviposition of the fly, and that he had fallen asleep in the woods in the day-time only a few days before the first appearance of the symptoms produced by the presence of the larvæ.

"Several other instances of the attacks of *Lucilia* upon man soon came to my knowledge, most of which led to fatal results. Among these I will select the case attended by Dr. J. B. Britton, of Mapleton, in southeastern Kansas, who reported it in full at the session of the Southeast Kansas District Medical Society in January 1883. From this report I condense the following account: "On the evening of August 22d, 1882, Mr. M. E. Hudson complained of a peculiar sensation at the base of the nose and along the orbital processes, which was first followed by inordinate sneezing, and later by a most excruciating pain over the os frontis, also involving the left superior maxillary. This patient also had

suffered, and was still suffering, from an aggravated form of nasal catarrh. The discharge was quite purulent, of a yellowish color frequently tinged with blood, with a disagreeable odor and at times intolerably offensive. On the 24th there was a profuse discharge of much purulent matter from the nostril and mouth, when all pain instantly subsided. This discharge continued for three days, during which time as much as sixteen ounces escaped, increasing in consistency until it was pure pus. The odor becoming much more offensive, his cough was much more troublesome and fever increased to such an extent as to produce slight delirium for twelve hours. What was thrown off was with much difficulty expectorated, and was sanious, containing microscopic particles of osseous matter together with flakes of plastic exudation. The patient had spoken with difficulty for thirty-six hours and there was much trouble in swallowing. The soft palate had evidently given way and there was an entire inability to protrude the tongue or use it in speech.

"About this time a worm similar to a maggot dropped from his nose. That was the first indication or suspicion that there was anything of the kind present. There was not, as in some other cases reported, any swelling, or movement traceable under the skin, nor was there at any time any complaint of the patient, calculated to lead to a knowledge of their presence. After the appearance of the first, I expected more, and was surprised to see them drop from the nostrils and wiggle from the mouth without any discomfort to the patient until they came in contact with the Schneiderian membrane, when they annoyed him greatly, and every effort was made on his part to expel them; but so soon as expelled, no further trouble was manifested until another would get into the nostril. Every effort was made on my part to discover them under the tissue, but the soft palate being destroyed to a great extent, and the palatine arch apparently lowered, it was with very much difficulty that an examination could be made. The worms were evidently burrowing under the palatine fascia, as it presented a honey-combed appearance and in places patches were totally destroyed as large as a dime [18 mm.]. They continued to drop from the mouth and nose, forced from the nostrils by the efforts of the patient, for the following forty-eight hours, during which time 227 were counted and the estimated number exceeded 300. At

this time the whole of the soft palate was destroyed. The patient lived four days after the last worm came away.

"I put five of the worms in dry earth and in fourteen days from the time they dropped from the nostril there hatched out three flies.

"Upon a very minute and careful examination after death, I was astonished to find that all the tissue covering the cervical vertebrae, as far down as I could see by throwing the head back and compressing the tongue, was wholly destroyed and the vertebrae exposed. The palatine bones broke with the slightest pressure of the finger. The os hyoides was destroyed and the nasal bones loose, only held in position by the superficial fascia.

"My own theory is that the fly deposited the eggs while the patient was asleep, probably the day previous to the peculiar sensation and sneezing first complained of. At that time they had acquired vitality enough to annoy him while in contact with the sound flesh. So soon as they came in contact with the unsound flesh, or that affected with the catarrh, being as it must have been gangrenous, they gave no further trouble."

"Dr. Britton forwarded to me specimens of the fly, bred as above stated which I identified as *Lucilia macellaria* Fab. In order, however, that there might be no possibility of error, I submitted them to Dr. S. W. Williston, of New Haven, Conn., who corroborated this determination and furnished the following notes concerning the species: "The specimens are evidently *Lucilia (Campsomyia) macellaria* Fab., a fly common from the Argentine Republic to Canada, and which from its variations has probably received more specific names (20!) than any other American fly. It belongs to the *Muscidae* (true) and is not far from *Musca*. Their hominivorous propensities have gained for them the synonyms of *Lucilia hominivorax* Coquerel, and *L. hominivorus* Genil (S. America)."

"In the *Peoria* (Ill.) Medical Monthly for February 1883, Dr. Joshua Richardson, of Mc-ravia, Iowa, has an article upon "The screw-fly and its ravages," from which I make the following extracts: While travelling in Kansas in the latter part of last August a citizen of this place had the misfortune to receive while asleep a deposit of eggs from this fly. He had been troubled for years with catarrh, hence the attraction to the fly. He returned home a few days after the accident and shortly after began complaining of a bad cold.

Growing rapidly worse I was called to attend him. Monday, my first day, his appearance was that of a man laboring under a severe cold. Had slight congestion of the lungs, and moderate grade of fever. His nose seemed greatly swollen and he complained of a smarting, uneasy feeling in it, and general misery through the head. Gave him treatment to relieve the congestion and fever. Tuesday saw him again. His nose and face were still more swollen, and in addition to the other symptoms he was becoming slightly delirious and complained a great deal of the intense misery and annoyance in his nose and head. A few hours after, I was sent for in haste with the word that something was in his nose. I found on examination a mass of the larvæ of this fly (or "screw-worms" as they are commonly called in the south) completely blocking up one nostril. On touching them they would instantly retreat *en masse* up the nostril. Making a 20 per cent solution of chloroform in sweet milk I made a few injections up both nostrils, which immediately brought away a large number, so that in a few hours I had taken away some 125 of them. By Wednesday evening erysipelas had begun, implicating the nose and neighboring portions of the face. Another physician was called. By continual syringing with a strong antiseptic solution of salicylate of soda, bicarbonate of soda and carbolic acid we hoped to drown out the remaining larvæ. But they had by this time cut their way into so many recesses of the nose and were so firmly attached that we were unable to accomplish much. Finally we resorted to the chloroform injections, which immediately brought away a considerable number. Friday I was able to open up two or three canals that they had cut, extracting several more that had literally packed themselves one after another in these fistulous channels. His speech becoming suddenly much worse, I examined the interior of his mouth and found that a clear-cut opening had been made entirely through the soft palate into his mouth and large enough to insert the end of a common lead pencil. Saturday the few remaining larvæ began changing color and one by one dropped away. On Sunday for the first time hemorrhage from both nostrils took place, which continued at intervals for three days but was not at any time severe. On this day the patient began to improve, the delirium and erysipelas having subsided leaving but little or no annoyance in his head. In a few days he became able to go

about home, and even to walk a distance of half a mile to visit a friend and return. But while there he began complaining of a pain in the neighborhood of his left ear, apparently where the eustachian tube connects with the middle ear. It proved to be an abscess. Being already so reduced by the first attack, he was unable to withstand the second, and died after an illness of nearly three weeks, completely exhausted by his prolonged sufferings. Three days before his death the abscess discharged its contents by the left nostril. The quantity of pus formed was about 2½ ounces [78 grams].

"In all about 250 larvæ were taken away from him during the first attack, and, as the visible results, not only had they cut the hole through the soft palate, but had also eaten the cartilage of the septum of the nose so nearly through as to give him the appearance of having a broken nose. The case occupied, from the first invasion of the fly to its final result, nearly two months. He doubtless would have recovered but for the formation of the abscess, which, from all the symptoms, was caused by one or more of the larvæ having found their way up the left eustachian tube."

"Dr. Richardson also quotes the Rev. William Dixon, of Green, Clay Co., Kansas, as giving the following account of his own experience:

"While riding in his buggy a few years ago in Texas, a screw-fly attacked him flying up one nostril. He blew it out when it dashed up the other and deposited its eggs before he was able to expel it. Not realizing the danger he did nothing for about three days, when the pain became so great that he hastened to Austin to consult a physician. His soft palate was almost destroyed before the larvæ, over 200 in number, were expelled." This was the only one of twelve cases known to Dr. Richardson in which the patient recovered."

M. DIONNES' "LES OISEAUX DU CANADA.

DEAR SIR,—I cannot but think that in the notice of the above named book, which was published in the June number of this magazine, the reviewer has been more generous to the author than just to the Canadian students of ornithology. It is not quite fair to allow it to be thought that we know so little about our birds that we can not form a correct estimate of such a book, and, while the reviewer has

pointed out several of the errors it contains, he has, I think, failed to place before your readers its utter worthlessness as an authentic work, and will, I fear, assist to spread its mischievous influence rather than prevent it. I need scarcely to remark that I refer entirely to those portions of the book which applies to the bird life of Canada, and not to that which is copied from Dr. Cones' "Key to North American," one of the best and most reliable works ever published. Had M. Dionne been content to translate the "Key," or such portions of it as would be most useful to Canadian students, he would have gained the well-merited thanks of the French-speaking members of the fraternity.

So much of the book being of an excellent character, creditable alike to M. Dionne's industry, skill and good judgment, it is all the more to be regretted that he had not spent the little additional care and labor which was required to make "Les Oiseaux du Canada" a standard authority. But he failed to give the matter the attention its importance demanded, and it is due to students that they be warned against accepting his statements, and also due to those who may be contemplating authorship that they shall be taught that they are assuming a grave responsibility, and can not with impunity publish for scientific facts an array of statements drawn from their imaginations or compiled with indifference to the reliability of their authorities.

M. Dionne's book exhibits clear evidence of the influence of another mischievous work, "The Birds of Canada," by A. M. Ross, M.D., &c., &c., &c., &c. The long list of et ceteras by which this author sought to impress upon his readers his eminent qualifications for writing a standard work did not save it from being dismissed by the English "Zoological Record," with this severe sentence, "The text is valueless." Every one must admit that such books are worse than merely "valueless," for, placed in the hands of young students who cannot discriminate between the good and the bad which they contain, they become misleading. This matter is of such importance that I ask a little space to quote a few examples from these books by way of illustrating their character. I will quote from both, for the one is such a close imitation of the other that the original must be examined to determine the value of the copy.

In the first place, the titles of the books are misleading, for it can not be correctly said of

either that they contain accounts of the birds of *Canada* as such. Dr. Ross' work refers almost wholly to a part of Ontario, the few references to the maritime Provinces, chiefly drawn from Audubon, and the list of species found in Manitoba and British Columbia, which is appended to the second edition, do not redeem the body of the work from its purely local character, and to give it a title bearing a wider significance is to handicap it with a pretension which its contents will not sustain, and will also cause confusion to inexperienced readers. The same remark will apply with greater force to M. Dionne's work, for he has mentioned only a small portion of the western species, and treats them as if they occurred in the Eastern Provinces, having in the preface stated that he had omitted the *fauna* of Manitoba and British Columbia.

To state, as Dr. Ross does, that the Brown Thrasher "is one of our most common birds," that the House Wren "arrives from the south the first week in May," that the Evening Grosbeak "is a visitor," and to make no further mention of the localities in which they occur, in a book entitled "The Birds of Canada," is calculated to create a false impression; for though all this may apply to Ontario, it does not apply to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, as these birds have never been found there.

The only remark which M. Dionne makes about the distribution of the Olive-backed Thrush is "Cette espèce est rare aux environs de Québec." As a matter of fact, I have found this species common throughout New Brunswick, at no locality more so than at Malawaska, on the Quebec border; and it is also common at Lennoxville. Besides these facts, we have Mr. Wintle's report of its occurrence near Montreal, and Mr. Merriam's report of it being "not uncommon" near the Godbout; the name is on the Morden-Saunders list of Western Ontario, and in Mr. McIlwraith's old list of Hamilton species; Mr. J. Matthew Jones reports it common in Nova Scotia, and Prof. Macoun found it in Manitoba, while it has been traced west to the Pacific slope and north to the Arctic. With such information easy of access, it is quite inexcusable to imply that the only locality in which the bird is known to occur in Canada is near Quebec; and when an author will so carelessly make statements which we know to be incorrect, we cannot be expected to rely

upon those he may make for which we must accept his unsupported authority.

That many of the statements made would be correct if applied to prescribed districts I will not dispute; but I submit it is a mistake to suppose that what applies to the *fauna* of one limited locality must perforce be equally applicable to the entire Dominion. Each *faunal* area, and there are a number of such divisions in Canada, has a bird-life peculiar to itself; even though some species having a much wider range of distribution than others, are found in several areas. But there are in these books other errors of a more serious nature than the question of distribution. For instance, Dr. Ross gives the color of the eggs of the Olive-backed Thrush as reddish brown, while leading authorities have pronounced them greenish blue, speckled with brownish. The same author states that the Hudson Bay Tit "nests in a shrub; eggs four; pure white." Not one of these details are correct. This species invariably make an excavation into a dead stump or living tree, and lay from five to ten eggs, which Dr. Brewer, having before him the large series in the Smithsonian collection, described as being of a white ground color, but having reddish brown spots grouped in a ring around the larger end.

In his description of the plumage of the Olive-backed Thrush, M. Dionne states that the breast, throat and chin are of a pale brownish yellow, while the best authorities give the color of these parts as white, with a buffy tinge, and marked with dark spots.

In the matter of habits, this same author makes such remarks as that the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler delights in bushes and lower branches of the trees, but a number of careful and experienced observers have unanimously recorded this bird's preference for the highest branches of the highest trees.

Cuvier's Kinglet is found in both books, and may be taken as a fair sample of the carelessness which is so conspicuous. Dr. Ross records that the species occurs in Canada in spring and fall, and M. Dionne repeats the record and attempts to throw all responsibility from his own shoulders (which, by the way, he does very seldom, making most improbable statements upon his own unsupported authority) by quoting Dr. Ross; but he should have known that, to say the least, the occurrence of the bird was so very doubtful that it should not be placed on any list unless upon the most

unquestionable authority, and then the date and locality as well as the name of the collection should have been given to make the record acceptable by scientists. The only example of this Kinglet which has been so far reliably recorded was taken by Audubon near the Schuylkill River, Penn., in June, 1812. Mr. Ridgway has retained the name in the Smithsonian catalogue on this authority, but Dr. Cones has not placed it on his "Check List."

Just where M. Dionne gathered his information that Dr. Cones considers this species a variety of *calendulus* is not apparent. There is no such statement in the "Key," the only one of Dr. Cones' works which M. Dionne mentions among his authorities; and in "Birds of the North-west," *Cuvieri* is given as a doubtful synonym of *satrapi*, while in "Birds of the Colorado Valley" it is not mentioned.

As I have before remarked, references are made in these books to numerous western species, without any indication of their range being given. Macgillivray's Warbler will serve as an example of these. The most eastern limit of the range of this species which is authentically recorded, is Dr. Cooper's report of finding it at Fort Laramie, in Wyoming Territory. Yet Dr. Ross makes the unqualified statement that "it breeds in Canada," by which he must mean, to be consistent with his other records, that it breeds in Ontario.

M. Dionne follows with an unsupported assertion, changed, by way of appearing original, to "rarely seen in Canada," and he copies the pattern so closely as to repeat an error which Dr. Ross made in describing the eggs as "flesh-colored." The best authorities describe them as of a pinkish-white ground color, but "marked and spotted with purple, lilac, reddish-brown and dark brown approaching black."

Turning to the Owls, we find that M. Dionne, on page 131, states: "Nos espèces sont toutes sédentaires en Canada"; and, again, in his account of the Barred Owl, "Cette chouette est commune à l'automne et disparaît au printemps pour aller faire sa ponte à la baie d'Hudson." These two statements do not harmonize and neither is correct. By "sedentary" species ornithologists mean those which remain during the entire year in one locality, and it is quite certain that in this sense neither the Snowy Owl, the great Gray Owl, the Hawk Owl, nor Richardson's Owl

can be called "sedentary" in Canada, being mostly winter visitors. The Barred Owl, on the other hand, is given by Mr. Vennor as universally diffused over the greater portion of British America, and is a resident species in most localities in Canada. It is, as a rule, a "resident" wherever found, and in the breeding season is much more abundant in the Southern States than at Hudson Bay.

On an introductory page, M. Dionne has given a long list of "ouvrage consultés," but he must have read some of them, at least, to very little purpose. Had he, for instance, read with any care the Bulletins of the Nuttall Ornithological Club he would have seen in the number for April, 1878, on page 52, the record of Dr. T. M. Brewer that "It is now universally conceded that not a specimen (of the Crested Grebe) is in existence of American origin, and that there is no authentic record of the capture of a single specimen in America." It was excusable in Dr. Ross putting the name of this bird in his list, as the mistake in identification had not then been published, but there is no excuse for M. Dionne blindly following him.

It would take a large volume to point out all the errors which these two authors have made. I have picked out these few quite at random, but they will suffice to show how little reliance can be placed in anything which the books contain. Had they been content to publish what they had observed, or could have compiled from authentic sources, these writers would have rendered a valuable service to Canadian students and ornithologists at large, but the publication of these books must bring a blush to the cheek of every Canadian who realizes that those claiming to be eminent among our scientists are responsible for such miserable failures. It is time such work was stopped.

The system of nomenclature and classification adopted for "Les Oiseaux du Canada" is that of Dr. Cones, which M. Dionne informs his readers is in his opinion the most correct and the most generally acknowledged. Well, it is encouraging to learn that he is so well informed in the higher branches of ornithology that he can form a correct opinion of the merits and demerits of the rival systems; but if he thinks that Dr. Cones' system is the most generally used he is in error.

The great body of American writers use the system prepared by Mr. Ridgway for the Smithsonian Institution, and which differs

very materially from Dr. Cones', and, though I freely admit that I can not judge of the merits of either, I will take the liberty of advising all Canadian students and writers to use Mr. Ridgway's system and avoid the confusion which must arise if that prepared by Dr. Cones should come into more general use.

Respectfully yours,

MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

St. Johns, N.B.

THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE IN CANADA.

Over four hundred members of the above Association have pledged themselves to attend the meeting in Montreal next year.

"Science" says:—"In so far as accommodations for the meeting is concerned, and funds for its expenses, there can be no doubt that Montreal can entertain the association as well as any of the British cities in which it ordinarily meets; and its geographical position and facilities for access and for communication with all parts of Canada, the Northern States and the West, present many attractions; while there is reason to hope that a meeting of the British Association in Montreal would be attended not only by all interested in science in Canada, but by large numbers of the scientific workers of the United States. The experience acquired last year in entertaining the American Association will also afford very valuable guidance." We understand that the difficulties in regard to the transportation of so large a body across the Atlantic are now settled, and all parties interested here have put their shoulders to the wheel in order to give our scientific brethren a cordial welcome. We quote also from "Science," the editor remarking "that in the present year the meeting of the American Association, at Minneapolis, is early (Aug. 17); while that of the British Association at Southport, which is, besides, in the immediate vicinity of Liverpool, is unusually late (Sept. 19). This will allow members of the American Association to attend both meetings; and it is stated that the retiring president of the American Association, and possibly others of its members, may avail themselves of this privilege. This may possibly permit arrangements to be made which might substantially unite the meetings

of the two associations in 1884, and so prepare for an international meeting in the future. If the meeting of the American Association for 1884 can be fixed for some north-eastern city, sufficiently near Montreal, and can be timed so as to occur a week before or after that of the British Association, there can be no doubt that a great number of members of the latter body would take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the companionship of their American *confreres*; while, on the other hand, many of these would gladly spend a few days at the meeting of the British Association. In this way it would seem that a greater benefit to science might result than even from an international meeting. There would be time for the complete transaction of the business of both associations. Neither would suffer either pecuniarily or in the value of its proceedings; and there would be the best possible opportunity for interchange of ideas between the scientific men of the United States, Great Britain and Canada. Nor is it unlikely that some scientific workers from the continent of Europe and elsewhere may be attracted by a combination so unusual. It may thus be hoped that the proposed meeting of the British Association in Canada may not only be one of the most successful that this mother of associations has held, but may inaugurate an epoch of renewed activity and progress in the widely-spread scientific work of the two great associations of the English-speaking race."

HUXLEY'S COD-FISH MOUNTAIN.

Professor Huxley says that a good fishing ground will yield more food in one week than an acre of the best land in a year. At the International Fisheries Exhibition in London, he drew a vivid picture of the moving "Mountain of Cod," one hundred and twenty to one hundred and thirty feet in height, which for two months in every year moves westward and southward past the Norwegian Coast. Every square mile of this colossal column of fish contains one hundred and twenty millions of fish, consuming every week, when on short rations, no fewer than eight hundred and forty millions of herrings. The whole catch of the Norwegian fisheries never exceeds in a year more than half a square mile of this "Cod Mountain," and one week's supply of the herrings needed to keep that area of Cod from

starving. London might be victualled with herring for a year on one day's consumption of the uncaught Cod.

REVIEW.

We have before us a General Index to the Thirteen Annual Reports of the Entomological Society of the Province of Ontario. The matter is compiled by Edmund Baynes-Reed, Sec.-Treas. of the Society, who deserves credit for the work, which is systematically arranged and will be useful to those who possess the Reports since 1870. Attempts are made to give English names to our insects; indeed, we would be well pleased to see all the species in this Index thus supplied; but we decidedly object to the duplication of an English name to one insect, or to two species, as we notice this to be the case in the Red-legged Locust, which is called the "Canadian Locust." *Anthomyia cepurum* and *Orthalis pleza* are called Onion flies, and three species of *Cantharis* are called Spanish Blister Beetles. We would prefer to call *C. scutator* the Green Calasoma, and *C. validum* the Gold-spotted Calasoma. Our Papilios and other Butterflies should have appropriate English names, and something must be done ere long to overcome this difficulty. The British insects have English names by which they are recognized by the unscientific collector, and the North American species should be commonly known by names applicable to them which may be taken from their foras or food plants. This Index is, however, a good beginning. In conclusion, we may remark that *Rhodites radicum* is placed under the head of DIPTERA.—C.

DISTEMPER IN DOGS.

We have received a pamphlet from the author, Mr. S. E. Wheeler, 133 Bleury street, Montreal, on Distemper in Dogs, its symptoms and cure. To those who wish to keep their dogs healthy and vigorous, the instructions given by Mr. Wheeler are valuable. He seems to possess a thorough knowledge of the diseases of these animals. The price of the pamphlet is 20 cents.

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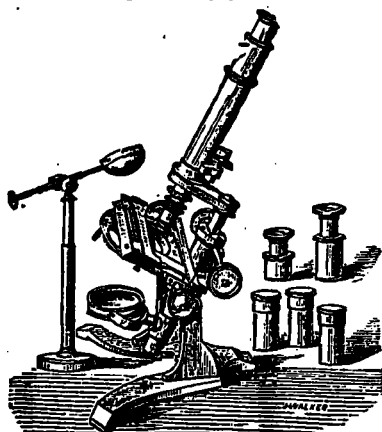
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