

OBITUARY.

THE REV. THOMAS W. FYLES, D. C. L., F. L. S.

The Entomological Society of Ontario has lost its most aged member and one of its most devoted friends and supporters through the death of the Rev. Dr. Fyles, which took place at Ottawa on Tuesday, August 9th, 1921, after an operation for some internal trouble; his remains were interred in the Beechwood cemetery on the following Thursday. Born at "The Hermitage", Enfield Chase, England, on the first of June, 1832, he had entered upon his 90th year when he died. After completing his education in London he came to Canada in 1861 and took up his residence in Montreal. In 1864 he was ordained by Bishop Fulford in Christ Church Cathedral and was appointed to the charge of the parish of Ironhill in the Eastern Townships where he was instrumental in building a church and parsonage. After an incumbency of eight years he was transferred to Nelsonville, where also he succeeded in building a rectory; there he remained for eleven years doing faithful work among his parishioners, whose love and esteem he speedily won. In those days the Eastern Townships, lying south of Montreal and the other side of the St. Lawrence were inhabited by English-speaking farmers and others, mostly from "the old country", who were Protestant in their religion and largely members of the Church of England. Now very few of their descendants are to be found in that beautiful and fertile region of country, their places having been filled by French-speaking Roman Catholics.

With his inborn love of nature in all its aspects, Dr. Fyles enjoyed to the utmost the rural scenes and varied life of animals and plants with which he was surrounded. Mountains and hills, lakes, rivers and ponds, woodland streams and swamps, forest glades, flower-spangled meadows, orchard and garden, all were to him full of charm and interest, and gave him the utmost delight. While all nature was full of "the glory of God" and appealed to his heart's deepest emotions, he was devoted especially to the study of the manifold forms of insect life which were everywhere to be found about him. It thus came about that in the course of time he gradually formed a large and beautiful collection of butterflies, moths and other insects. The results of his observation and studies are to be found in many admirable papers which are published in the Annual Reports of the Entomological Society of Ontario, and which he read at its meetings.

In 1883, after spending nearly a score of happy years amid country scenes and kindly people, he removed to Levis, opposite the City of Quebec, and was employed by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (London, England) as immigration Chaplain. For twenty-five years he filled this post, meeting all the incoming ships with their varied crowds of new settlers. To them, bewildered often by their new surroundings he was a veritable friend in need, and did much to relieve their difficulties and cheer them on their way. The work was sometimes very arduous when a number of large ships arrived fully loaded with passengers coming to the new lands of this vast Dominion.

During the winter months, when navigation was closed and the port of Quebec securely ice-bound, Dr. Fyles had time to devote to his favourite study

of Entomology. In 1897 he succeeded in the formation of the Quebec Branch of our Society, acting as its President and in fact its mainstay, as after his departure in 1909, the Branch, in spite of heroic efforts on the part of some of its members, gradually died out through having lost its inspiration and its guide. In recognition of his learning and ability, he was appointed Honorary Professor of Biology in Morrin College, Quebec; Fellow of the Linnean Society of London; and given the honorary Degree of D. C. L. by the University of Bishops' College, Lennoxville, Quebec. From 1899 to 1901 he was President of the Entomological Society of Ontario, and its delegate to the Royal Society of Canada in 1890, 1894 and 1895; he was also for many years a member of the Council of the Society and of the Editing Committee of the "Canadian Entomologist."

In 1909 he gave up his work at the Port of Quebec owing in some measure to an accident which had injured his foot and impaired his powers of walking and former activity. Before leaving, his fine collections were transferred to the Museum in the Quebec Parliament Buildings, where, no doubt, they are well looked after and carefully preserved. On his retirement and resignation of active work, at the age of 77 years, he had well earned a period of rest. He spent three years at Hull and in 1912 removed across the river to Ottawa, where he remained until the hour of his death.

Dr. Fyles was a constant contributor during a long series of years, to the publications of the Entomological Society of Ontario. His first papers in the "Canadian Entomologist" were "Notes on a Gall-mite of the Nettle-Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*)" in October, 1882, and "A Description of a Dipterous Parasite of *Phylloxera vastatrix*, *Diplosis grassator*, new species" in December, 1882. The latter was also published, as his first contribution to the Annual Reports, in the Fourteenth, for 1883. Many papers of a descriptive or systematic character appeared in the magazine, but his most characteristic articles were those read at the meetings of the Society and published in the Reports. His inimitable manner of reading and the keen humour that pervaded many of them charmed his audience and will not soon be forgotten by those who had the privilege and opportunity of hearing them.

For thirty-four years he never failed to furnish a paper for our meetings; the last, in 1916 on "The Naturalist in the City", describing various incidents that came under his observation while living in Ottawa. Among the seventy-six papers that appeared in the Reports were many that showed his extensive knowledge of Entomology in most of its orders, as may be learnt from the following titles: "Certain Forms of Neuroptera in their Relation to the Fishing Interests"; "Butterflies" with tables for the determination of the species found in the Province of Quebec; "The Sphingidae of Quebec Province", with similar useful tables; "Dragon-flies of Quebec"; "Crickets"; "Paper-making Wasps"; "Food-habits of Hymenopterous Larvae"; "Hemiptera"; "Two-winged Flies"; "Forest Insects"; "The Tussock Moths"; "Notodontidae" and several others.

His most delightful papers, however, were of a different character and in his own wonderful style that charmed those who heard or read them. The following series may be mentioned especially: "Voices of the Night", "The Pool",

"The Stream", "Green Lanes and Byways", and "Mountains and Hills". In these papers are depicted not only varied forms of insect life, but also observations of other living creatures in air and water and on earth. All living things among animals and plants were of engrossing interest to this keen-eyed lover of nature in all its aspects.

A few other remarkable papers may be mentioned as examples of his literary tastes and skill: "Visit to the Canadian Haunts of Philip Henry Gosse" (author of the "Canadian Naturalist"); "How the Forest of Bedford was Swept Away"; "The Entomology of Shakespeare"; and "Entomological Mistakes of Authors".

Dr. Fyles was no mean artist, as the original illustrations in many of his papers plainly show. He was also in the habit of presenting large colored diagrams of the insects that he referred to in his lectures and addresses. He presented a large, handsomely bound folio volume of these diagrams to the Society's library as an expression of his gratitude for all the Society had been to him during a long series of years.

He was a notable example of an old-time naturalist, a class of nature-lovers now almost extinct in these days of specialization and devotion on some single family or group of insects. His innate interest found scope in his boyish days when, after his father's early death, he spent many summer holidays at the country home of his grandmother, and together with his uncle, Edwin Tearle, at that time a boy of about the same age, roamed the woods and hills in search of birds and butterflies. To this friend and companion he was much devoted and after coming to Canada kept up a long correspondence with the exchange of verses. In the two volumes of poems that he published are references to this friend of earlier days.

The writer may conclude this sketch of a beloved and revered friend with a quotation from a letter received from him a few years ago:—

"I look back and I thank God for the brightening of my life that my connection with the Entomological Society of Ontario has been to me, and yet a feeling of sadness comes over me when I think of the good old friends who have passed "the Great Divide", and every change seems to say—the days darken round us and the years, among new men, strange faces, other minds—and the remembrance of our departed friends calls for thankfulness, for it is a pleasant remembrance; yes, and I am thankful".

Charles J. S. Bethune.

CORRECTIONS AND EMENDATIONS

P. 184. Transpose line 5 to follow line 2.

Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell has called my attention to the fact that the genus *Vitrinella*, proposed by me for a Geometrid genus (1920, Studies in N. Am. Cleorini, 27) is preoccupied by *Vitrinella* Adams (1850) in Mollusca. The name *Anavitrinella* may be used to replace it

I might also note that in the above mentioned paper the species *agrestaria* Grossb. was omitted, by oversight, from the genus *Pterotaeta*, although figured under this generic name on Plate VI, fig. 11.

J. McDunnough.