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DR. WILLIAM BRODIE.

We regret to have to record the death of another veteran entomologist in the person of the late Dr. William Brodie, who has recently been contributing a series of articles on galls found in the neighbourhood of Toronto. On Saturday, July 31st, on his return to his home he complained of feeling unwell, and a few days later became seriously ill. On Friday, August 6th, he expired. He was born in Peterhead, Aberdeen, Scotland, and came out to Canada with his parents when a child. His father settled on a farm in the County of York, about 30 miles from Toronto, and there hewed out of the forest a home for his family. From his earliest years Dr. Brodie exhibited an ardent love of nature in all its aspects, and became an omnivorous reader. This habit, formed in childhood, continued with him throughout his life. While fitting himself for the profession of dentistry he taught school for a time, and became one of the first graduates of the Dental College in Toronto. There he practised his profession very successfully for a long series of years. In 1903 he gave up his work and took charge of the Biological Department of the Provincial Museum.

While fully occupied during most of his time with the work of his profession, he most industriously devoted every spare moment to his much-loved study of natural history. He was a wonderful collector, and little or nothing, whether *flora* or *fauna*, came amiss to him in his rambles. He ranged over the whole domain of Natural History, and mastered in all branches information alike interesting and important; for with all his collecting there went great powers of observation and depth of insight. If he picked up a shell or a fossil, problems of antecedent conditions or of geological eras would be suggested; if he noticed a plant, some question of ecology or environment would present itself. Scientific theory on its philosophical side always delighted him. His favourite study was entomology. Galls and their inmates had a special fascination for him, and he made large collections of these and many other forms of insect life. His enthusiasm was infectious, and inspired many of his younger friends with a love for nature, and especially for the collection and observation of

insects. His work at the Museum was most congenial to him, and gave him a happy occupation when his age prohibited him from carrying on his ordinary work.

A remarkable feature about him was his mental activity ; his mind seemed always active and keenly so. Though an omnivorous reader, he was entirely free from the fault so common among great readers—that of reading mechanically ; and his power of assimilating what he read was extraordinary, as was his memory for verse ; he could recite hundreds of Scotch ballads, or the lyrics of a long succession of the greater English poets. With his friends he loved to discuss questions of general interest in science and art or the books he was reading, and many a feast of reason and flow of soul took place at his home on Parliament Street, for his doors were always open to congenial spirits. These included not only men of science and contemporaries, but many another whose outlook on life was earnest, whether the chief interest lay in letters, in art, or elsewhere. He died at the good old age of seventy-eight years, and will be very much missed, not only by the members of his family, but by a large circle of friends. Of his family of six children, three daughters alone survive. To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

A Master Mind.

[“Guide, philosopher and friend.”]

I.

Ah ! you who own the sovereign sway
Of commerce and the busy mart,
You knew him not, he lived apart,
The king who passed in state to-day.

A king who recked not worldly gear,
A pauper—you who rate by gold,
But rich in knowledge manifold,
In Nature's lore without a peer.

He lived his threescore years and ten ;
He had his court of liegemen true ;
They loved him, like that chosen few
Who served the Master scorned of men.

“He is no king of ours,” you say,
“We know him not”; yet bare the head,
Pay you your tribute, he is dead,
I saw him pass in state to-day.

II.

To bow the knee he was not planned
With willowy grace and pliant form ;
Like stalwart oak he faced the storm
And bore its brunt—a monarch grand.

A shock of rebel locks upreared
Above the forehead bold and high ;
'Neath shaggy brow the deep-set eye
Challenged enquiry ; grizzled beard

Part hid the lip ; a man endued
With power of thought, you read the face ;
The Maker moulds in some for grace,
For strength those rugged features hewed.

In mind and will maturest man,
A boy at heart ; his eager quest
Of Nature's ways the boy confessed,
But through it all endurance ran ;

Bend as they might the sturdy frame
And quell the lustre of the eye,
Not years could daunt the purpose high
Or quench the ardent spirit's flame.

III.

Greybeard and youth, a thoughtful throng,
Would gather round their Scottish sage,
Right gladly youth give place to age,
Listen and learn and ponder long.

Was life's dark riddle hard to read ?
His vibrant tones would cheer. Were there
Who questioned truth ? who fought despair ?
He welcomed all, nor asked their creed.

Did they in earnest seek? He sought
 In earnest too. From bounteous store
 He loved with lavish hand to pour
 Jewels of knowledge and of thought.
 Responsive hearts, unwavering eyes
 His steadfast gaze compelled again;
 He loved the truth, his speech was plain,
 He could not stoop to compromise.

IV.

Oh! all too rare the thoughtful mind
 That keeps abreast of Science' way
 And still reveres the older day,
 The simpler faith that lags behind.
 Dead now, but while the ages run
 His work shall live; 'tis such as he
 Alone inspire posterity,
 Fathering their kind from son to son.
 We know not when our days are sped,
 And I, who through his friendship stand,
 Would lift some falterer by the hand
 Ere I lie nerveless with the dead.

Trinity College School, Port Hope.

FRANK MORRIS.

SYNONYMICAL NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN HOMOPTERA.

BY EDWARD P. VAN DUZEE, BUFFALO, N. Y.

On the occasion of a recent visit to New England it was my privilege to examine three interesting collections of insects: Mr. Samuel Henshaw very kindly gave me access to the fine entomological collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge; to Mr. C. W. Johnson I am indebted for an opportunity of examining the valuable remains of the Harris collection, now housed in the museum of the Boston Society of Natural History, many of the species in which were determined for Dr. Harris by Thomas Say, and are the nearest approach to Say types now available to the student of American insects; and, finally, on the way home I stopped over at Albany, where Dr. Felt very kindly opened up for my inspection the precious type specimens prepared by Dr. Fitch to accompany his "Catalogue of the Homopterous insects in the State

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