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DR. JAMES FLETCHER.

It is with the most profound regret that we record the death of our very dear friend, Dr. James Fletcher, which occurred on Sunday morning, Nov. 8th. For the last two years his health had not been entirely satisfactory, and for more than a twelvemonth he had been troubled more or less with an internal hemorrhage, which caused him much inconvenience and discomfort at times, but which he did not regard as particularly serious. His cheery habit of mind caused him to treat lightly symptoms which would, in most cases, have excited much alarm. In the middle of September he went out to British Columbia on his annual visit, and was absent from home for about six weeks. On his return his colleagues noticed that he had not benefited as much as usual by the trip, and that his appearance was by no means robust. But with characteristic energy he at once set to work to make the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada, which he desired should be one of the most successful in its history. As President for the second year in succession he expected to retire from office, but fully counted upon being present at Guelph and occupying the chair at the various sessions which were held on Nov. 5th and 6th. During the preceding week, however, he wrote saying that he was going to Montreal to consult a specialist, and might after all be unable to attend. He went down on Saturday, the 31st of October, and was at once sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital, there to prepare for an operation. To the writer he sent a letter the following day, expressing his great disappointment at being laid up and prevented from coming to Guelph, but full of confidence in the wonderful power of modern surgery, and with apparently no fears as to the result. The operation took place on the following Saturday, but he failed, owing to his weak condition, to rally from it, and the next morning he died. The operation revealed that he had been suffering for some time from a malignant tumour, which had sapped his vitality, and would very soon, in any case, have brought his life to a close. Up to the end he was cheerful and

uncomplaining, free from despondency or anxiety about himself and full of the happy optimism which had always been one of his charming characteristics.

Few men ever made so many loving friends in all walks of life; every one who came to know him could not fail to become warmly attached to him. There are many sad hearts grieving at his loss all over the Dominion of Canada, and many, too, in widely-scattered places in the United States. Old and young, rich or poor, learned or ignorant, children and their elders, it made no difference—he had a kindly word for each one, and most can treasure in their memories a kindly deed as well. When he addressed a meeting he captivated his audience at once, and when he joined an excursion of nature students all were eager to be with him and learn from him some of the secrets of the woods and fields that he knew so well. We shall not see his like again, but we may all feel that it was good for us to have known him—his memory will long live in our hearts—his noble words and generous deeds will be happy recollections for many a year to come.

Dr. James Fletcher was born at Ashe, in the County of Kent, England, on March 28th, 1852. He was educated at King's School, Rochester, and came to Canada in 1874 to fill the position of a clerk in the Bank of British North America. Finding the work uncongenial, after two years he gave it up and became an assistant in the Library of Parliament at Ottawa. All his spare time he devoted to Botany and Entomology, and became, as years went on, a recognized authority in each of these branches of natural science. This led to his appointment as honorary Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, and a year or two later to his taking up the work of these departments at the newly-established Experimental Farm. This was in 1887, and for twenty-one years he has been a highly-valued assistant to Dr. Saunders, the Director, and long since became known throughout North America as one of the ablest scientific men of the day in his special departments.

In 1878 he became a member of the Council of the Entomological Society of Ontario, and every year since he has been elected to hold some office in it, being four times Vice-President, and President for three years, from 1886 to 1888, and again from 1906 to the time of his death, when he had just been re-elected for another year. His first contribution to the Society's publications was an article on Canadian Buprestidæ, which was published in the Annual Report for 1878, and his first paper in this

magazine appeared in January, 1880. During all the years that have followed, no volume of either publication has been issued without some valuable articles from his pen.

In 1879 he was one of the originators of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, the most successful society of the kind in the Dominion, and more recently he suggested, and by his energy and influence accomplished, the formation of the important Association of Economic Entomologists of North America, of which he was elected President in 1892. He was also one of the original Fellows of the recently-formed Entomological Society of America, and was First Vice-President last year. In 1886 he became a Fellow of the Linnæan Society of London, and in 1896 he received the degree of LL.D., *Honoris causa*, from Queen's University.

In 1885 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; in 1895 he became President of Section IV, which is devoted to Geological and Biological Sciences. For many years he was Honorary Treasurer of the Society, and for the last two years Honorary Secretary. To the Transactions of the Royal Society he contributed the following papers: Presidential Address, 1895, on Practical Entomology; Recent Additions to the List of Injurious Insects of Canada, 1899; The Value of Nature Study in Education, 1901; Descriptions of Some New Species and Varieties of Canadian Butterflies, 1903; Notes on the Preparatory Stages of Some Species of Canadian Lepidoptera, 1907.

A list of his contributions to scientific and agricultural journals would occupy many pages, if such a list could be completely carried out. His most valuable publications were his annual reports on the work of his department at the Central Experimental Farm and the Bulletins in connection with it, in which he gave accurate detailed descriptions of a very large number of injurious insects, and also his papers in the annual reports to the Legislature of the Entomological Society of Ontario. Two years ago he completed an admirable work on the Farm Weeds of Canada, containing descriptions of all the most important weeds that are a trouble to agriculturalists throughout the Dominion; a handsome quarto volume, illustrated with 56 beautiful coloured plates.

Not only with his pen, however, did he perform useful work, but with his voice as well. He was in great demand as a public speaker at Agricultural, Horticultural and Fruit-growers' conventions, meetings of Farmers' Institutes and other gatherings. On these occasions he at once secured the attention of his audience, and charmed them with his graceful

language and lively humour. No one else, indeed, has done so much for Canada in instructing the people in a practical knowledge of their worst insect foes and the best methods of dealing with them. His work has thus been of vast importance, not only to those directly interested in the products of the soil, but indirectly to all the dwellers within the domains of this wide Dominion.

Though so fully occupied with scientific work, he yet found time for other things. He was one of the most efficient members of St. Luke's Hospital Board; for many years lay-reader and superintendent of the Sunday School in Holy Trinity Church, Archville, a suburb of Ottawa, and an active member of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood. His religious life as a devout son of the Church of England was known, perhaps, to but few amongst his intimate friends, though manifested in many ways through his goodness of heart; he lived and died an earnest God-fearing man, devout and upright, filled with unobtrusive piety, a sincere Christian indeed, "in whom was no guile."

While we deplore the loss that we all feel we have individually sustained, we desire to express to his sorrowing family, Mrs. Fletcher and her two daughters, the deepest sympathy with them in their sad bereavement. To them the loss is beyond all words, but it may afford them a ray of comfort to know that he whom now they mourn was so widely beloved, admired and respected, and that so many friends share in their grief and are filled with sorrow for him who is gone.

C. J. S. BETHUNE.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, a friend of many years' standing, writes as follows:

"Dr. Fletcher's services to his country were great. He had a wonderful grasp of a very broad field in entomology, and was one of the best-informed men of his time on the intricate and manifold aspects of economic entomology. His reports were sound and practical, and as a public speaker before assemblages of agriculturalists and horticulturists he was unexcelled. His address years ago before the National Geographic Society in Washington, on the Canadian Northwest, was one of the most perfect lectures I ever heard. He was known, admired and loved all through the States. In fact, I have never known a man who had so many absolutely devoted friends as Dr. Fletcher. His energy, his enthusiasm, his

absorbing interest in everything that lives and grows, his warm heart, his cheeriness, his perfect lack of even a suspicion of egotism, attracted every one who knew him, and bound them to him in friendship, and even love, forever. Here in Washington among the entomologists and others there are many sad hearts to-day."

DR. WILLIAM H. ASHMEAD.

On the 17th of October, Dr. William Harris Ashmead died in Washington, D. C., aged 53 years. For more than a year he was in such an unsatisfactory state of health that his recovery appeared impossible, and it was therefore no surprise to learn that the end had at last arrived. His breakdown in the midst of a career of scientific usefulness was evidently brought about by overwork; he devoted himself with such intensity to the study of the Hymenoptera and the publication of the results that he gave himself no rest, and literally wore himself out, to the grief and distress of his family and many friends.

For close upon thirty years he was a constant contributor to the pages of this magazine, his first articles on insects affecting the orange having appeared in 1879. At that time he lived in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was engaged in the publishing business, which included the issue of a daily paper and a weekly agricultural journal. He was naturally much interested in the production of oranges, and his attention thus became drawn to the insects injuring the trees and fruit, and those parasitic forms that somewhat kept them in check. His work was so thorough that he was made a field entomologist for the United States Department of Agriculture in 1887, and began his career as a professional entomologist.

In 1890 he went to Germany and studied for some time in Berlin, thus becoming qualified for the performance of scientific work of a high character. In July, 1897, he was appointed a Curator of the Department of Insects in the U. S. National Museum at Washington, and continued to hold the position till incapacitated by illness.

In October, 1904, he was elected an honorary member of the Entomological Society of Ontario in recognition of his eminence in the science and the valuable contributions that he so constantly made to the pages of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. His studies were devoted to the Hymenoptera, and he published many systematic papers on various superfamilies in the order and described a large number of genera and species. His work was of such a high character that it is regarded as authoritative, and