

OBITUARY NOTICE

LACHLAN GIBBS.

The death occurred on March 1st, at his residence, Blackheath Park, London, Eng., of an Entomologist, beloved by a host of friends on both sides of the Atlantic. With his death the long line of Gibbs, who have been outstanding figures in Montreal, comes to an end, his forefathers having been connected with the Montreal firm of men's outfitters, Gibbs & Company, since its establishment in 1775, and represented for years in London under the firm name of Gibbs Bros.

Mr. Lachlan Gibbs was born in London in 1852 and was educated there. His first visit to Montreal was in 1874 and he at once sought out the few entomologists and became interested in the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario. The interest never slackened till the day of his passing away. He resided in Montreal but a few years, returning to England, but after several visits of a few months' duration on business and pleasure he took up his residence in Montreal in 1896, becoming manager of the firm, and making the city his headquarters till 1911—after which he made yearly visits to the city from London.

He was a member of the Church of England, and a keen churchman. While his residence was on the other side, he invariably arranged that his annual visits would synchronize with the meetings of the Synod here. He had an immense number of interests—commercial, artistic, musical and philanthropic—but in addition he had three hobbies—gardening, stamp collecting, and entomology. It is hard to say of which of these his heart was fondest. His garden was always a delight to visit—he always wanted to have others enjoy it, and to give roots, cuttings and seeds to everyone. His collection of stamps, particularly of the British Empire, was very valuable, and he presented a number of rare stamps to King Edward VII. for his collection. He made many collections of Lepidoptera, not for himself but to give to others—individuals and societies. The Blue Butterflies (*Lycaenae*) were always his favorites, and no trouble was too great for him to secure rare species and varieties and through his kindness a fine representation of variations of three of the British Blues was presented to the writer, and by him placed in the Lyman Entomological Room of McGill University, as well as a great many other interesting species. To quote from the "Entomologist", Vol. LV., p. 96: "When *Lycaena arion* turned up in Cornwall he wrote from Montreal to a friend in England that he was coming across on a certain steamer and to meet him at Exeter on a specified evening. He said, 'I must see that big blue alive.' They met, found the blue in numbers, and the same evening posted the majority of them alive to friends at a distance who, as he said, had not the opportunity of seeing the species for themselves. That was the man! It was never any question of exchange, he simply wished to give his friends a share of his own delights."

On his last visit to Canada in 1921 his friends all noticed a great change in his health and appearance, and he felt in bidding us good-bye that it would be his last voyage across the Atlantic. He was never a very robust man, but of wonderful energy and nervous activity, but latterly his strength failed him and he was doing too much for his bodily strength. The writer spent two days

at his delightful country home at Como, Que., to help him in his efforts to get our wood white butterfly, *Pieris napi* vars., across to the British Entomologists alive for purposes of cross breeding. We secured quantities of the eggs, which hatched before Mr. Gibbs sailed, but by preparing pots of cress plants ahead, and taking the menageries in his stateroom, he at last succeeded in rearing many imagoes on British soil.

We had such long chats among the beautiful trees and fields of his lovely estate, about insects, flowers, and of entomologists of both sides of the Atlantic, living and dead, that our memory of our dear friend seems to tell us that he cannot really have passed out from our midst. To the members of the Montreal Branch he has always been a true friend indeed, and what more can one say. To know him was to love him.

He contributed little to the periodicals—perhaps the two articles in the Canadian Entomologist, Vol. XXV., 88 and 177, were the only ones from his pen—but his letters were full of valuable information and helpfulness. He became a fellow of the Entom. Society of London in 1913, and since 1884 belonged to the South London Ent. and Nat. Hist. Society. When he sailed from Montreal, he went home full of another purpose than that of the white butterflies or of his own failing health. It was to take his grandson on a trip to Scotland, to the scenes of his early pleasures with the Burnet moths. In spite of his enfeebled condition and at the age of 70 he accomplished his purpose. They went to Braemar and found *Zygaena exulans* flying. They crossed into Argyleshire and again found *Z. achilleae*, and returned much elated with their success. His delight was in helping others to enjoy the wonders of nature—and particularly the younger people of both sexes. When on his death bed and almost too weak to speak he said to Mr. R. Adkin, P.E.S., who was called to him before he passed away: "Do encourage the youngsters to take up Entomology; it has been such a help to me."

He was laid to rest in Charlton Cemetery on a beautiful spring day such as he would have loved—A. F. W.

A CORRECTION.

I find that the name *Argyroploce deceptana* McD. (Can. Ent. 1922, LIV, 42) is preoccupied by *A. deceptana* Kft. I propose therefore to replace it by *Argyroploce apateticana* n.n.

Mailed Thursday, October 12th.