entitled "The Truth about Vivisection." Mr. Baynes delivered the last lecture December 17 to a large and enthusiastic audience in Huntington Hall, Boston. It was an amplification of the article which he prepared for the *Woman's Home Companion,* July, 1921, and which at once aroused a howl of consternation from all of the antivivisection groups in the country. So much interest was aroused in the general question that the lecture committee of the Boston Society of Natural History reorganized itself into the Committee for the Protection of Animal Experimentation. An appeal for funds, signed by President Charles W. Eliot, Professor Richard P. Strong, M. D., Ernest Harold Baynes, Dr. John C. Phillips, Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, Dr. Townsend W. Thorndike and Dr. Thomas Barbour, brought a most encouraging response. The committee has published several statements, designed to instruct the community as to just what the results may be if the antivivisectionists succeed.

Cardinal O'Connell was one of the first to endorse the movement in a most inspiring letter which was followed by letters of endorsement from persons in all stations of life and representing many different interests, particularly Life Insurance Companies, Agricultural Interests and Charitable Organizations of many sorts.

The newspapers gave the work of the committee generous publicity and its efforts as a whole have become so successful that there is now a widely expressed desire that the work of the committee be carried forward by some permanent organization. The committee has studied carefully the organization and work of the Research Defense Society in England and it is probable that some organization of this sort will be founded.

To be really effective the Society should be national in its scope and have an able, active field secretary and should aim to protect the public from the mischievous activities, not only of the antivivisectionists, but the antivaccinationists, the medical freedomists, so-called, and all others who aim to lower the standards of medical education or jeopardize the public health in other ways.

A correspondence is invited with those interested and our literature is available for free distribution.

EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH, PH. D.
J. C. PHILLIPS, M. D.
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FOR THE COMMITTEE

POISONOUS SPIDERS

One of the best reviews of our knowledge of the poisonous properties of spiders is contained in Dr. Henry C. McCook's beautifully illustrated volumes, "American spiders and their spinning work." In Volume 1, page 274, he concludes that most of the cases of serious poison in the United States are caused by the bite of the widely distributed Lineweaver, *Lactrodectus mactans,* and the Saltigrade, *Phidippus morsitans.* He cites an instance of serious sickness resulting from the bite on a man's back of *Lactrodectus.* He also thinks it very probable that the large Mygales, commonly called tarantulas, on account of their large fangs and exceptionally large supply of poison, can inflict very serious bites.

He cites instances of spiders killing fish and birds, in one instance the victims being two sunfish about two inches long, which were promptly killed by the poison of a spider I saw at work. From my description Dr. McCook thought this was a Dolomedes.

In his third volume Dr. McCook quotes Professor Bentkau of Bonn, who suffered very serious pain and general swelling from being twice bitten by a *Chiraianthium nutrix* on the fingers.

Dr. McCook thinks it most likely that even the bites of the first two mentioned species are in most instances of small consequence and that the bites of the great majority of spiders are of little more consequence than those of mosquitoes and not nearly as serious as the stings of bees, hornets, etc.

In instances that have come under my direct observation of spiders biting human beings the results have been comparable with mosquito bites.

F. R. WELSH

A LONG-LIVED WOODBORER

IN SCIENCE, Friday, August 5, 1921, H. E. Jaques, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, contributed a note, "A Long-lived Wood-

borer." It was intimated that *eburia quadrigeminata* (Say) spent forty years growing from egg to mature larva, in the top piece of an old birch bookcase. A number of such stories are current, but I am of the opinion that the simple solution of the whole matter is as follows: *Eburia quadrigeminata* breeds in the heartwood of dead, dry, seasoned logs and wood,—*Hicoria, Quercus, Robinia, Betula, Fagus, Fraxinus, Castanea, Ulmus* and perhaps others. The eggs are placed in the cracks and crevices of dry, weathered or seasoned scars, "cat faces," and similar placed. An impregnated female in some manner got into the house, and in crawling over the piece of furniture took advantage of a crack in the varnish or wood, and inserted an egg.

I can not believe that any Cerambycid larva could exist for forty years in a piece of furniture. In fact, the normal duration of the larval stage of insects of this family is from one to five years.

I think the same explanation will cover the other case mentioned in this article. The adults of this species often hide beneath bark, and might have crawled between the bricks and doorsill.

A. B. CHAMPLAIN

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PERCIVAL LOWELL

THE absorbing interest that Dr. Percival Lowell was able to throw about the astronomical investigations of his later years has obscured to an extent the fact that he was a man of many parts. There are comparatively few who are familiar with his keen observations of the nearer Orient, crystallized into published essays, and fewer still have known of his interest in botany, geology and general natural history, in one or more departments of which he has made contributions to science.

A comprehensive view of him is presented in Miss Louise Leonard's recent volume, "Percival Lowell—An Afterglow" (Boston: The Gorham Press), a book which through the medium of selections from his own writings shows him in his variety of studies. No serious undertaking has yet been made towards a biography of Lowell—the time since he passed on is perhaps yet too short, but in this volume one has a valuable reminder of him. Extracts from his letters are deftly framed in a Foreword, a prelude and an afterpiece, the last a poem that he loved. There is no appraisal of Dr. Lowell's scientific achievements, but everywhere is reflected his spirit of investigation, cheerfulness and wish to help his fellow man.

J. R.

THE PASTEUR CENTENARY

THE year 1922 marks the lapse of a century from the year of Louis Pasteur's birth and a "Centenary" volume of Pasteur's collected scientific writings would be a fitting homage to the memory of such a man.

In view of the conditions in Europe, is it not possible for investigators here to sponsor such an undertaking, in the English language, and contribute to it by means of translations of the original French articles and memoirs?

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Insect Transformation. By GEORGE H. CARPENTER, D. Sc., Professor of Zoology, Royal College of Science, Dublin, London. Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1921, pp. 282, figs. 124.

PROFESSOR CARPENTER for many years has been doing admirable work in Ireland. Well trained in biology, and a broad zoologist, he has interested himself in many aspects of scientific work. His publications on crop and animal pests have been of great service to the Irish farmers and stock growers; he has been much interested in the admirable zoological garden in Dublin, where they breed lions in confinement more successfully than in any other place in the world, and has been active in the Royal Irish Academy, of which he is secretary.

His book on "Insect Transformation," just published, is a mature book, written by a broad man, and differs in many interesting and important ways from any book yet published.