

OBITUARY

MRS. M. E. (HIPPESELEY) CLARK

Mrs. Clark was born Marianne E. Parker on April 2, 1880 in Leeds, Yorkshire, of Cornish parents, from whom she inherited an intense interest in Nature; her father was a keen conchologist and her mother a pencil sketcher who collected and studied mosses. A delicate child, Marianne was educated at home by her parents until the family moved to Manitoba in 1891. There she started a collection of local shells and of moths and butterflies of the Dauphin district.

The family next moved to Terrace, B.C., and engaged in ranching and lumbering. In November 1911 Marianne, now Mrs. Hippesley, lost her right arm completely in a gun accident and confined her collecting to beetles only. In between arduous duties of housekeeping, gardening and ranching she made some remarkable catches and all her material was identified by her close friend and helper Mr. C. A. Frost of Framingham, Mass., and to a lesser extent, by Mr. H. C. Fall. In 1922 she published a list of the beetles of Terrace, B.C. in Vol. 54, No. 3 of *The Canadian Entomologist* and in Vols. 44 and 45, 1948 and 1949 respectively, in the *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of British Columbia*, she published "An Annotated List of Coleoptera taken at or near Terrace, B.C. Parts I and II". (Professor M. Hatch has informed me by personal communication 19 July 1963, that "omitting incompletely named species, her three lists from Terrace number 659 species of beetles, by over 150 species the longest list of beetles ever recorded from any locality in the Pacific Northwest". (By contrast, the beetle collection of Mr. K. Auden made in the Midday Valley

near Merritt, B.C. numbered 404 species: Auden donated it to the University of Illinois.) No one seems to know what has happened to the bulk of the specimens mentioned in these extensive lists. Some years ago Mrs. Clark sent to me a few small pinning boxes of beetles saying that she was distributing her collections between the University, the Vancouver City Museum and the Provincial Museum, Victoria; both these museums inform me that they never received any specimens from her.

There are large gaps in her personal history but about 1960 she came down to the Stave Falls district near Mission, B.C. on account of ill-health and died there on 26 September 1962; she is buried in Hatzic cemetery. There are no relatives surviving.

In her will, Mrs. Clark left to the University a home-made cabinet of insects and those of her books that the Mission High School and the Mission Public Library did not want. We obtained some useful old standard works on Entomology but of the insect collections the butterflies were destroyed by dermestids and what beetles remained were covered with dust and mould. When cleaned off, there remained nearly two store boxes of specimens, mostly labelled, of which twenty are new records for the Province; since these bear the identifications of Messrs. Frost and Fall, they are very valuable specimens.

Mrs. Clarke had astonishingly wide interests: besides insects, she collected shells, minerals and a large series of mosses, all, unfortunately without locality labels. Her choice of books showed profundity of learning.



She was in process of writing a Natural History for children when she died.

Note. The details for this life history were contained in a letter to Mr. H. B. Leech when he, as Secretary

of our Society, wrote and asked her for a brief account of herself. The letter is in the files of our Society and was lent to me by our present Secretary, Mr. Peter Zuk.

—G. J. SPENCER