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GEORGE WILLIS KIRKALDY.

1873-1910.

The fulfilment of sad duties is the lot of man. To me has come that of making known the death, in the flower of his manhood, of George Willis Kirkaldy, my good friend.

After a separation of some months from his wife and little one, whom he worshipped, he went to San Francisco, where they were, to spend the Christmas holidays with them. While there he was induced to submit to a fifth operation on an old fracture of the leg, and although it was successful, he grew gradually weaker and weaker, and less than a week later, on the 2nd of February, he breathed his last. That acute intellect, that ceaseless, untiring worker was at rest. His course was run, and he fell ere he grasped the bays that were to crown his achievement.

George Willis Kirkaldy was born at Clapham, near London, England, in 1873, and was therefore in his 37th year. From his youth he evinced a great love for natural history, but after finishing his studies in the City of London School, he went into the city, where he remained until 1903, when he accepted a position in Honolulu, with the Hawaiian Department of Forestry and Agriculture. Then began the happiest and most productive period of his life, and there also he met with the accident that eventually was to deprive the world of the most promising of the younger generation of scientific hemipterologists. Shortly after his arrival in Honolulu, while out riding, he forgot the American rule of the road, and turned his horse, after the English fashion, to the left as he came to a turn in the road, and crashed into a carriage coming in the opposite direction. His horse fell on him and crushed his leg. This was badly set, and after the bones had knit, it had to be broken again and reset. This operation was repeated at intervals no less than four times, the last with fatal results. There, too, he met the lady who became his wife; there his little ones were born, and his little son, George, the first and best beloved, died in infancy.

Freed from the sordid details of clerical work, in his new position he was in his element. He did not, indeed, care greatly to work on other

groups of insects, and at times the daily routine of the economic entomologist was irksome, but nevertheless, whatever he did was done well, and he found time to dedicate to his researches in the Hemiptera, although nearly all the work he did was done at home in the evenings, after the day's task was over. Yet, in spite of the limited time at his command, he was able to produce enormous quantities of work of the highest character. At some time in the near future I hope to be able to give at greater length an account of his work. For the present, I shall merely mention his great work on the Jassidæ in connection with the Sugar Planters' Association work on the parasites of the sugar cane, and the general Catalogue of the Hemiptera, now in course of publication, both of which mark epochs in Hemipterology. Like every earnest worker in the Hemiptera, the nomenclatorial chaos into which the order had fallen soon forced itself upon his notice, and much as he disliked to neglect the biological phases of the group, he was impelled to endeavour to place this important branch of the subject on a stable basis. In the pursuit of this laudable object, he was forced by the sheer logic of circumstances to take radical and iconoclastic measures, but he regretted just as keenly as any of his opponents and critics the necessity of doing away with many a name hallowed, as it were, by long usage.

Kirkaldy had all the vivacity and ardour of the Celt, which may at times have led him to accept perhaps too quickly and maintain too enthusiastically views which a more mature judgment showed to be untenable. Joined to this was a relentless Scotch logical temperament, which drove him inexorably and unswervingly to conclusions which at times were opposed to his natural inclination, yet which his passion for truth compelled him to accept and battle for. Above all things he hated sham; he loathed that spirit of pompous and self-sufficient importance which curses some small men. A constant and tireless worker, a minute, patient, resourceful student, he ever looked singly to the advancement of the knowledge of the Heteroptera, that group so sadly and shamefully neglected in comparison to other orders. In that bright galaxy where shine the illustrious names of Fabricius, Burmeister, Dufour, Amyot, Fieber, Stål, and in our days, most happily still with us, of Reuter, Horvath, Montadon, Bergroth, his is not the dimmest, and had Azrael held his hand, he had shone among the most brilliant.

As for me, I have lost a leal friend, an inspiration and a lode-star; one who encouraged me when I was faint, who helped me when I fell; to

whose constant words of cheer I owe what little success I may have achieved. Our minds moved in harmonious accord; our gifts were complementary to each other, and in so far as one so insignificant might, I helped my friend in my small way, a feeble return for his many kindnesses.

Better than any, perhaps, I can gauge the loss to science by his untimely death. His work planned, outlined in many a letter, carried out with his enthusiasm, his thoroughness, his energy, was destined to place him on the same lofty, still eminence where sits Stal alone, beyond the reach of the petty bickerings and disputes of the pseudo-great.

"And so the grim reaper reapeth among the flowers."—J. R. DE LA TORRE BUENO, New York.

A DECENNIAL CONFESSIOIN.

BY J. M. ALDRICH, MOSCOW, IDAHO.

In Entomological News, XI, 531, 1900, I published a list of corrections to my work on Diptera up to that time; the decade since then has, I regret to say, furnished me with materials for a similar list at the present time. With due humility I make the following confession:

In the February, 1909, number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST I published a paper on *Rhagoletis*, describing a new species, *intrudens*, which had injured cherries in British Columbia and presumably in Idaho. Immediately after the publication of the article, Mr. Coquillett informed me that my new species was the same as Osten Sacken's *fausta*, of which he had material from the type locality. Since then I received a pair of *fausta* from M. C. Van Duzee, collected at Kearney, Ont. There is no doubt that I misunderstood a statement of Osten Sacken's, where, after mentioning the basal cross-band of the wing, he goes on to say, "The black colour begins exactly where it does in fig. 10, and encloses a hyaline triangle reaching from the costa to the interval between the third and fourth veins." Eastern specimens prove that this statement refers to the black colour in general, not to the basal cross-vein.

In the same article I should have included in the table *Rhagoletis grindeliæ* Coquillett, (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., IX, 146,) reared from flower-heads of *Grindelia squarrosa* at Clarendon, Texas; it is readily distinguished from all the species in my table by having the scutellum wholly black. The life-history of *Rhagoletis suavis* Loew, was already known, having been published by Babb, (Ent. News, XIII, 242); the larva lives in the outer hull of growing walnuts at Amherst, Mass. So there are six species with larval habits known, instead of four.

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