

INTRODUCTION.

It is pleasant to find that the beginning of our knowledge of North American stoneflies was made by the "Father of American Entomology," Thomas Say. In 1823 he described four species in *Godman's Western Quarterly Reporter*, and described them so well that, although the types were long since lost, we have been able to recognize them all. The scattered descriptions that followed during the next four decades were mostly written by European entomologists—by Newman and Newport and Walker in England, by Pictet and Rambur in France, and by Burmeister in Germany. The first comprehensive review of the American fauna was that of Hagen, included in his *Synopsis of the Neuroptera of North America* (1861). Hagen recognized 61 nominal species in North America, disposed in seven genera, 40 of the species being retained in the original genus *Perla*. This work was prepared in Koenigsberg, at the special request of the Smithsonian Institution, from materials supplied by that institution and by collaborators. Its publication incited Benjamin D. Walsh, who then lived in Rock Island, Ill., to collect and study the Neuropteroids of his own vicinity. The following year (1862) he published a list of the species in his own collection with descriptions of a number of new species. He collected so assiduously that the vicinity of Rock Island, Ill., has remained until recently one of the best worked fields in America for the Neuropteroid groups. Since Walsh's time, the one persistent student of the group in America has been Mr. Nathan Banks. In a long series of papers he has described many new forms, and he has twice catalogued the American species (1892 and 1907).

More recently there have been noteworthy contributions to the knowledge of the group in America by Dr. Lucy Wright Smith (now Mrs. Wilbert A. Clemens) and by Mr. C. F. Wu. Mr. Wu's work