

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. William D. Shaw, of Montreal, on the 29th of June, 1886, at the early age of 19 years. The deceased was well known for his early application to science, he having been the leading spirit in founding the Montreal Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Of this Chapter Mr. Shaw was Secretary and Treasurer, and in 1885 was appointed General Secretary for Canada. Mr. Shaw was also a member of the Council of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario, a member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and a member of the Astro-Meteorological Association. A devoted student of science, his loss will be deeply felt by his fellow workers. Unassuming, guileless and upright, his memory will ever be held in loving remembrance by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ON EXPLOSIVE EMISSIONS FROM CARABIDÆ.

Dear Sir: There are other Carabidæ in our fauna which make an explosive emission from anal glands besides *Brachynus*. Mr. Ricksecker has observed the same in *Metrius*, and while I have taken these, I have never been so fortunate as to observe that act. The same is, however, done by *Psydrus piceus*. Many of our Carabide genera emit forcibly an irritating liquid, decidedly acid in its reaction, but without any explosive noise or with visible vapor; among these are *Cychrus*, *Calosoma*, *Carabus*, *Nomius* and *Chlaenius*. It is possible that *Calathus* does the same, as stated by Mr. Townsend, but the "white smoke" observed is probably the result of a chemical combination between the vapors in the cyanide bottle and the acid exudation, similar to that noticed when the vapors of hydrochloric acid and ammonia meet. Many of these exudations are not unpleasant to the smell, but in *Nomius* the offensiveness of the odor is entirely disproportionate to the size of the insect.

Philadelphia, April 28, 1886.

GEORGE H. HORN, M. D.