

Mr. Banks whether these were Texas species and would introduce a new element into the spider fauna of the District of Columbia. Mr. Banks replied that they were probably species which were already wide-spread, since this is the case with nearly all species of spiders which inhabit houses.

Dr. Gill spoke at length on the subject of the relative value of different groups of animals from the faunistic standpoint. He showed that we must consider the problem not only from the morphological but also from the paleontological standpoint and illustrated this point in a somewhat detailed consideration of some of the striking features of the vertebrate faunas of South America, Africa and India, deducing from this consideration the conclusion that the primitive faunas of South America and Africa were derived from the same common source, while the forms common to or similar to each other in Africa and India were derived from a common source at a later period. This means that South America and Africa were connected at an early period and that the connection between Africa and India was made at a comparatively recent date. He contended that the fresh-water fishes are the best group for the study of questions of geographical distribution, largely on account of their necessary restriction to the bodies of water which they inhabit. He showed that while the mollusks in particular, and also the insects, have changed comparatively little since relatively early geological times, the mammals have changed very greatly and the fishes occupy in this respect a position intermediate between the mollusks and insects on the one hand and mammals on the other.

Mr. Banks stated that, in his opinion, water forms are not as good as land forms for the study of geographical distribution; at all events this is the case with aquatic insects and arachnids. Fishes are by no means so limited in their distribution as land forms.

Mr. Marlatt spoke of the extraordinary distribution of *Bryobia pratensis*, which occurs from New England to California, and is known in the mountains of Montana at an elevation of 7,000 or 8,000 feet, remote from civilization, and also in the Southern States. What is probably the same species also occurs in Europe and in Australia. He considered this one of the most extraordinary instances of distribution known. Mr. Banks thought that