

northern Texas, Oklahoma, and southern Kansas than any other insect.

*Stictocephala festina* has not until within the last year or two come to be known as an insect of any economic importance. A few years ago Mr. R. A. Cushman, at that time connected with the southern field crop insect investigations, found a few individuals girdling the stems of alfalfa in Louisiana. The species was, so far as known, of so little importance that a careful investigation was hardly justifiable. Later on its capabilities for seriously injuring the alfalfa became apparent, but still there was not sufficient information at hand to indicate that it would be likely at any time to become a serious pest. It was, however, carefully studied further by Mr. Wildermuth, and suddenly, from out of a stage of obscurity, so far as its alfalfa-destroying habits are concerned, it has jumped into prominence, by becoming seriously destructive during the summer of 1914 in the alfalfa fields of Virginia and some other States.

Other similar instances might be brought forward, but the foregoing is sufficient to show the absolute necessity of carrying out, judiciously, investigations of insects likely to become injurious, whenever a favourable opportunity presents itself for doing so, regardless of what the previous record of these may have been. It has frequently happened that certain species have, to all appearances, come suddenly into prominence and become immensely destructive to crops. Because of their previous supposedly lack of importance, no one having taken the time to investigate them, all inquiries for information relative thereto coming from those who suffered from their ravages, must be given the disappointing information that nothing whatever had been learned of their habits in any of their several stages of development. There are times when an entomologist may be and is criticised for what might appear as a wasteful use of both time and funds in investigating insects not previously known to affect in any way the interests of husbandmen. But let him totally neglect these, and when one of them suddenly jumps into prominence, as is sooner or later bound to be the case with some of them, he will find himself equally, or perhaps even more, severely criticised because he thus finds himself unable to give a full explanation of the activities