

FISH-KILLING HABIT OF *BELOSTOMA GRISEA*.

I found this water bug, *B. grisea*, in our millpond yesterday, August 28, 1894, firmly fastened on the back of a sucker about five inches in length. The fish was propelling itself on the surface of the water with the fore fins, not using the tail at all. When they came to the shore I caught and separated them. I kept the bug, and on returning the fish to the water it struggled away on its back at the surface of the water as if paralyzed, and in a dying condition.

Milneford.

C. S. MILNE.

STAINING OF WINGS OF INSECTS.

At the request of Dr. Brodie a method of staining the veins of the wings of certain insects was devised as follows: Place the whole insect in a strong alcoholic solution of fuchsin, and allow it to remain there for forty-eight hours. Then transfer the insect to water, with a pair of fine forceps and wash it until no more colour comes away, changing the water if necessary. While the washed insect floats in clear water, slip a microscope slide under it; raise the slide, holding the insect on it with a fine needle; separate the wings from the body with a fine scapel and remove the body. With a drop or two of clear water on the slide, float the wings into any desired position, keeping them flat and unwrinkled, taking care to have no bubbles under them. Remove any excess of water with blotting paper, and allow the wings to dry. Then place a drop of thick Canada balsam near them, and heat the slide over a spirit or gas flame. Tilt the slide so that the now liquified balsam flows over the wings; lower a cover-glass gently into position and allow the preparation to cool. On examination, the veins will be found red, the depth of the colouring varying with the length of time of staining, the thickness of the veins, etc. The colour is well retained so far as has been tried, and successful photographs have been made. The technique of this method is very simple, but the various steps mentioned, or their equivalents, must be carefully prepared, in order to obtain good results.

Toronto.

DR. H. W. HILL.