

and that it had since spread over a large area, doing great damage. Apple trees in June last were as destitute of leaves as in mid-winter, the fruit growing to the size of marbles and falling off.

A late communication—with replies to a series of questions—shows the destruction to be even worse than at first reported. I give Mr. Davenport's own words :

"The insect made its appearance four years ago upon Rich Mountain, since which time it has been spreading in a northern semicircle at the rate of about fifteen miles a year. It is by far the most interesting insect that has plagued this country since the first white settlement. So wonderfully prolific, that in two years it literally covered every tree, bush and shrub, and with the exception of a few varieties, stripped them of their leaves.

"The egg hatches about the first of May, and the caterpillar, which is dark brown, lives about forty days, transforms to a chrysalis, lives in this state about ten days, and emerges a milk-white miller. For two weeks before their first transformation the fall of their excreta, in the woods, resembles a gentle shower of rain, and from its abundance tinges the streams a dark green hue. I have seen trees that had been stripped of their foliage, entirely wrapped up in their silken webs, resembling, when covered with dew, a wrapping of canvas. They constitute a great feast for all insectivorous birds and animals ; it is said that even cattle and sheep eat them with great greed. They have an instinctive way of protecting themselves by losing their hold upon the limb, at the slightest touch, and swinging by their web in the air. For this reason they are easily shaken off into sheets and destroyed ; however, they are so numerous, this remedy is worth nothing except in keeping them off very small trees. This instinct is not lost after leaving the caterpillar state, for if a bird alights upon a tree above the millers, they suddenly drop like a shower of snow to the ground for protection."

In the *Practical Entomologist*, volume 1, page 57, an anonymous writer gives an account of this insect's attacks on elms in Philadelphia. Dr. Packard, in his *Monograph of the Geometrid Moths*, page 528, mentions only elm as a food plant, but Prof. Thomas, in his *Second Illinois Report*, page 243, says : "I have not noticed them feeding upon that tree, but have twice found them feeding upon apple, upon the leaves of which I have reared them to the perfect insect. In neither case were they numerous." Prof. Comstock makes brief mention of the insect in his