

Recently, while on a visit to my old home in De Kalb county, Northern Illinois, the insects of which I was pretty well acquainted with twenty years ago, but with which I have known little since that time, I was most unexpectedly met with complaints of the Buffalo Carpet beetle, *Anthrenus scrophulariae*, unheard of there until within a few years, and which I never captured there myself.

Another newcomer was the Box Elder bug, *Leptocoris trivittata*, which I encountered in February, crawling and flying about my room, which had not been kept heated during the winter. This last was not so much of a surprise, as Dr. Forbes, whose monumental works on the insects of Illinois will stand as long as applied entomology itself, told me last fall that it had then nearly or quite crossed the State from west to east. But the thing did certainly look out of place to me where I found it.

Of the old-time injurious species, such as occurred there thirty or forty years ago, there is not one that does not occur there now, though not always in such numbers. The Chinch bug, *Blissus leucopterus*, that I remember back in the fifties, is not as destructive as of old, on account, I believe, of the fact that all uncultivated grounds are now generally pastured during summer, leaving no protection for the bugs during winter.

In most cases great diminution in numbers is most conspicuous among such species as fed on the natural vegetation, and as the land has been underdrained and brought into cultivation, these have disappeared with their food-plants. Thus, *Saperda mutica* and *Plectrodera scalator* have gone the way of the willows upon which they subsisted. *Acmaeodera pulchella*, formerly always common on the blossoms of *Rudbeckia hirta*, has become far less so, as the plant has succumbed to the cultivation or pasturing of the land where once they grew abundantly.

The busy, economic entomologist has far too little time to watch these things closely, but it would seem that there was here a field for such as are able to withdraw from the hurry and push of professional work, and quietly and carefully watch these comings and goings mid the insect world, for other States than Illinois offer equally desirable fields for such observations. Not only this, but we not infrequently hear complaints from those who follow some line of business and study insects only as a pastime, that they have no opportunity to collect outside their own narrow field, whereas, here is a phase of entomological study that is really suffering for just such labour as these circumscribed people can best give to it. The data obtained