

## BOOK NOTICES.

The Large Larch Sawfly; with an account of its parasites, other natural enemies and means of control. By C. Gordon Hewitt. D. Sc. (Bulletin No. 10.—Second Series, Entomological Bulletin No. 5. Division of Entomology, Dept. Agriculture, Ottawa.)

It was a fortunate circumstance that when Dr. Hewitt came to Canada three years ago, he was already intimately acquainted with our most injurious Canadian forest insect, the Larch Sawfly (*Nematus erichsonii* Hartig), this species being apparently a native of Europe and more or less destructive there also. Dr. Hewitt had already spent three years in the investigation of the life history and economics of this insect in England and having thereby determined the means by which its ravages can be checked in its native country he was particularly well fitted to grapple with the more difficult problem of its control in the vast larch or tamarack districts of North America.

Since coming to Canada Dr. Hewitt's studies of the Larch Sawfly have been continued and the results of these and the earlier investigations are embodied in the present report, in which a detailed account is given of the life-history, parasites and other natural enemies of this insect in both Europe and North America and the means by which it can be controlled.

The artificial means of control which have proved useful in the English larch plantations are, of course, impracticable in the vast forests of Canada and we must therefore rely altogether upon the parasites and other enemies. These are, however, not potent enough in North America to check the extensive outbreaks of the sawfly, which have several times occurred in this country, until most of the trees of the affected region have been killed by repeated defoliation. Dr. Hewitt has accordingly been engaged in the importation of sawfly cocoons from England, where this species is largely controlled by an ichneumon fly, *Mesoleius tenthredinis* Morley, and has succeeded in rearing from the cocoons a considerable number of these useful parasites and liberating them in various parts of Canada where the Larch Sawfly is prevalent. There is thus much reason to hope that the *Mesoleius* will become established here and in time increase in numbers to such an extent as to materially aid the other natural enemies of the saw-fly, and perhaps entirely prevent the occurrence of such serious outbreaks as that which we have been experiencing in Canada of late years.