

fed, they are found to be rapidly infected and capable of communicating this pestilential disease to others with which they are associated. The bacteria may be preserved in a torpid condition without loss of effectiveness for at least a year, probably for several years, and that without any particular care, and when required for use can be rapidly propagated in a suitable fluid.

In my address to you last year I referred to a similar form of disease which had occurred among cut-worms so abundant in clover fields in the Ottawa district, and in 1878 and 1879 to a similar trouble among the forest tent caterpillars at that time so abundant. Now I am glad to be able to report a similar disease among the cabbage worms, and to indicate to you some practical results arising from investigations regarding its nature and mode of operation.

Throughout most of the State of Illinois and in some parts of Michigan, it was observed last autumn that a large proportion of the cabbage worms sickened and died. Hundreds of their bodies were to be seen rotting on the cabbage leaves or shrunken and dried to a blackened fragment. This was soon brought under the notice of the State Entomologist of Illinois, Prof. S. A. Forbes, a most careful and indefatigable observer, who at once proceeded to investigate the cause of this caterpillar plague. He found the disease at first to be very unevenly distributed, some isolated fields showing no trace of it, while others not far distant were fairly reeking with death and decay, but as the season advanced it spread in every direction until in some districts almost every worm perished. He says, "We can conceive something of the significance of this disease if we imagine the terror and dread which would seize mankind if such a plague should suddenly assail human life. Whole towns would be depopulated and the dead would rot in the streets by hundreds. There would be no escape for any, because the contagion would be conveyed by the very food and drink by which life was sustained."

By dissecting specimens of the dead caterpillars, the microscope showed their intestines to be full of undigested food and swarming with a species of micrococcus, which appeared in the form of excessively minute spheres about one twenty-five thousandth of an inch in diameter, sometimes single, sometimes in pairs, and occasionally in strings of from four to eight. He found that these minute organisms could be readily cultivated in beef broth, and that a single drop of fluid from a diseased worm introduced into a vessel of such broth, would in two or three days render the