

and press it down on the cotton; saturate, or nearly so, the cotton with chloroform just before starting out to collect.

For killing most insects use a cyanide bottle, prepared thus: get a wide-mouthed bottle with a glass stopper, or tight cork; place in it two or three pieces, as large as caramels, of cyanide of potassium; this is a very violent poison, even its fumes being deadly; it should be handled as little as possible, — pick the pieces up in paper, — and should be labeled "*Poison*," and kept away from children and ignorant persons. Mix plaster of Paris and water to a thin paste, and pour over the cyanide, covering the lumps half an inch deep. Let the bottle stand uncorked a day to dry; the plaster hardens, but, being porous, allows the poisonous fumes to rise; after drying a day it should be kept tightly corked.

When an insect is in the net, the bottle may be uncorked, pushed into the net and over the insect, and the insect pushed into the bottle by the cork, thus avoiding stings, as well as injury to the insect.

Hard insects, as beetles, bugs, and grasshoppers, may be put at once into alcohol. If not used soon, they will thus be better kept.

Many insects, such as bees and beetles, may be taken from flowers by quickly pushing them into the bottle with the stopper.

An umbrella is very useful in collecting certain forms of insects. Hold the umbrella spread and inverted under the branches of trees and shrubs, and beat the branches with a stick, or jerk with the handle, if it has a hook.

A lamp, by an open window, has often been found too