

in the case of the two moths to which reference has already been made, the gypsy moth and brown-tail moth, which have been introduced into America. They did not bring with them their parasites which keep them in check in European countries, and in the absence of these natural means of control they have increased enormously. For example, between the years 1896 and 1902, the brown-tail moth spread so rapidly that the infested area increased from about 26 square miles to 1,500 square miles. To-day, their parasites are being imported from Europe and Japan, and liberated in the United States in the hope that ultimately these natural means of control will render these insects no longer a conspicuous pest. This is a single instance out of many, showing the effects of this removal of the balance which Nature normally maintains, but with which man is constantly interfering. It can also be shown how insects affect commerce, prevent the colonization of countries, how they influence health, and how they may be responsible for the downfall of a people. No other group of animals bears so serious and important a relation to man himself, and any instruction, therefore, on insect life in which consideration is not given to these practical aspects of the question is as incomplete as a human being without hands.

In rural schools such knowledge is a *sine qua non*, and has been imparted in a number of such schools with which I am acquainted, but frequently owing to the want of the particular knowledge on the part of the teachers themselves such instruction is not given. The absence of instruction and suitable text books on the subject make this, to some extent, excusable, but if goods are demanded there is usually some attempt made to supply them, and if teachers will demand instruction of the nature I have endeavored to describe, efforts are sure to be made to provide the same. It is a question which rests with teachers, and to those these random remarks are made in the hope that a few may fall on good ground in addition to those which are destined to fall and be choked by the thorns of an over-crowded curriculum.

CONCHOLOGICAL NOTES.

Mr. Frank Collins Baker, of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, has issued his monograph on the *Lymnæidæ* of North and Middle America, recent and fossil. The volume is of 539 pages with 53 half-tone plates, and numerous illustrations in the text. The morphology of *Lymnæa* is fully dealt with, and a new and, I think, highly satisfactory classification arranged, based in the