

most successful means of combating them, as so far ascertained, is to spread sheets under the trees at night, and shake the crickets on to them. Mr. Stanley fed the crickets gathered thus to the chickens, who devoured them greedily. At this writing, we have not heard of *C. monstrosa* from any other section, except those mentioned by Professor Scudder.

### AN ANTIDOTE TO INSECT-BITES.

BY CHARLES STEVENSON, MONTREAL.

During a trip to Paraguay to study the mosquito pest, Prof. Voges, the Director of the National Board of Health at Buenos Ayres, accidentally discovered a remedy for mosquito bites. He had a supply of all kinds of substances, among which was *naphthalene*, a chemical of no use whatever against the mosquito itself. A surprising result was produced on rubbing this chemical on mosquito bites. Even when the part stung was greatly inflamed, it had the effect of neutralizing the insect-poison. By rubbing it on the spot immediately after a person has been bitten, the swelling that usually follows does not arise.

Soon after hearing of the above remedy, I suggested, more in fun than in earnest, to a person who was being tortured by flea-bites, to rub them with a naphthalene or "moth" ball. Almost instant relief came after a good rubbing of the lumps raised by the bite, with a permanent disappearance of the painful irritation that generally lasts so long.

Personally, I have found "moth" balls a ready relief for the bites of gnats, and also the larger Diptera, as well as mosquitoes. A "moth" ball is such an easy thing for a person to carry round with him that it is well worth the trial of all entomologists on any stings or bites they may receive during any of their excursions. To get good results the "moth" ball must be well rubbed on the affected part for a few minutes.

Most entomologists use this chemical in the form of cones or balls for the protection of their collections. But I get better results from using it in its crystalline form, sprinkled in the cases now and again. It is entirely volatile when it is in its pure state, and the purest commercial quality is the crystalline and should leave no residue on evaporating in the cases. It not only keeps out insect mites, but also prevents mould, destroys bacteria and schizomycetes, and, being neutral, it has no reaction on paper or colours of the insects. But, most important to the user, it is not poisonous to man.