

time in fighting. Satan has a hard time of it in "some mischief finding" for these little fellows to do, for their hands are never idle, as they hurry through the woods, running up or around the trunks of trees or hanging head downwards from a slender twig, never still for more than an instant, as they peer into every tuft of moss, every crack or cranny in the bark, along the twigs, under the bud scales of deciduous trees or among the leaves of evergreens, talking cheerfully to themselves and each other all the time as they carry out their useful mission in clearing the trees and shrubs of countless insect enemies: woe to the luckless caterpillar, chrysalis, spider, or beetle which comes within the range of their sharp black eyes. Nothing comes amiss to these insatiable hunters, from the minute, shining black eggs of an aphid to the fat chrysalis of a Cecropia Emperor Moth; with deft blows the hard sharp beak soon penetrates the thick silken cocoon and in a very short time the marauder is away looking for another victim. Dr. Clarence Weed publishes in this interesting bulletin the results of some careful investigations which he has carried out as to the winter food of the chickadee. He shows that more than one half of the food of this bird during the winter months consists of insects, a large proportion being in the form of eggs. Vegetation of various sorts made up a little less than a quarter of the food, and two thirds of this quarter consisted of the buds or bud scales which were believed to have been accidentally eaten along with the eggs of plant-lice. These eggs made up more than one fifth of the entire food and formed the most remarkable element of the bill of fare. This destruction of myriads of eggs of the plant-lice which infest fruit, shade and forest trees is probably the most important service which the chickadee renders during his winter residence. More than 450 of these eggs are sometimes eaten by one bird in a single day as well as the eggs of many other kinds of our most important insect enemies of the forest, garden and orchard. Dr. Weed figures in his bulletin some twigs of various trees, upon which the eggs of insects have been deposited. Among these are represented the egg masses of the tent caterpillars and the Fall