

was based on personal observation. It was at variance with the descriptions of this operation and somewhat surprising.

Mr. Smith replied that he had never watched oviposition, nor had it been watched in this country so far as he was aware. His statements were inferences based on examinations of infested fruit. The passage from the ovaries to the outside of the pear was large and open, so no necessity existed for a puncturing of fruit by either insect or larva. He further found that in a lot of infested pears placed on moist earth, most of the larvæ left the pear by this same aperture.

Mr. Lintner expressed surprise at this, and described his experience, which was that the fruit usually cracks transversely near its base, and that the larvæ make their way to the surface through these cracks.

Mr. Southwick asked as to the best way to breed Cecidomyidæ. He had been very unsuccessful with some species he had attempted to rear.

Mr. Smith thought no general rule could be laid down, as the habits of the insects differ so much. Our effort must be to keep them in natural conditions as much as possible.

Mr. Lintner agreed to this and added, that there was much difference in the ease with which species could be bred. With some, success was very difficult.

Mr. Fletcher found them easy to rear as a rule, if they were given the constant care and attention necessary. He thought the blighting of the blossoms might be done without injury to the tree, as the blossoms of many varieties expanded before the leaves appeared, and even if some leaves were destroyed at this season the injury would soon be repaired.

Mr. Lintner asked what material could best be employed?

Mr. Fletcher suggested the arsenites, and preferably London purple on account of its causticity.

Mr. Howard asked whether Mr. Fletcher had considered what effect this would have on the bees.

Mr. Fletcher said he had not. It was an off-hand suggestion; but sulphate of copper might be substituted, and would not, he thought, hurt bees. He was, however, rather sceptical as to the injuries to bees from spraying flowers, and intended next spring to experiment on this question,

Mr. Osborn asked whether the midge was confined to pear or was known to attack other fruits? He explained that he had found a Cecid-