

white in the basal area. Rye specimens are plainly typical in this respect, for this latter feature is somewhat a departure from the general rule and at once becomes noticeable. In the "Revision," specimens having a white basal line or a few whitish scales here, together with a more reddish tinge of the median field, are described and show to some extent how to gauge our conception of its variation.

But this is along the conventional lines upon which variation occurs in the group. The prevalence or absence of white in the basal area, the orbicular, claviform and reniform spots, and finally in the scales at the base of the antennæ, is not a point by which any very rigid rule can hold. Examination of a good series of any of the allied species will soon show this, yet individually this variation is not so great—it is in the mixing of the species wherein results confusion. Perhaps the greatest point of specific constancy as we glance superficially at a collection, though apparently a very insignificant matter, is the general hue or tint of the body vestiture (applicable only with fresh specimens), and secondly, the wing outline is important. But, fortunately, we are not dependent on conceptions of varying shades and colours, since individual opinions differ in such matters and colour-blindness exists to a wide degree—rather may we rejoice that these closely-related species cannot always mystify us, but in their larval stages show departures easy of recognition.

The unravelling of these early histories seems necessarily a slow task and one which often brings the student under, to him, an amusing criticism, since it becomes so necessary to dig and delve in such a varied number of locations—be it the side of the village turnpike or a neglected corner of a country churchyard—and one frequently hears the passer-by remark upon the sad affliction of being "slightly touched on the subject of bugs and all that." But with success as a reward to our efforts, such remarks only elicit a smile, and we are well satisfied indeed if we have but found our quarry.

THE THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the Entomological Society (1900) has just been published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. In its pages will be found many articles of an interesting and important character, dealing for the most part with entomological subjects of a practical nature.

THE GENERAL INDEX to the Thirty Annual Reports, 1870 to 1899, is now on sale by the Society. Price (including postage): unbound, 25 cents; bound in black cloth, 50 cents.