

Economic Entomology
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the amusement only, from the ignorant, which is called forth by the entomologist in prosecuting his investigations? While not for one moment wishing to belittle their work I maintain stoutly that not one of these or all combined can compare with entomology in its possibilities when tested by the rule of *Cui bono*? The silent respect accorded these sciences is no doubt largely due to supposed, not to call them fictitious, virtues.

The botanist has from ancient times been inseparably associated with medicine and the discovery of a panacea for all the ills to which mortal man is heir. Even in the wilderness, with a handful of herbs he is exempt from molestation by either Indian or white man run wild. The chemist again deals with things unintelligible to the masses, illustrated with loud noises and nasty smells, and there has come down with him from the middle ages a sort of twin-brotherhood with the alchemist and the practisers of other dark arts—the possibility of his discovering in his laboratory an easy means of creating, without hard work, gold, that which is by most men most coveted, and for which many will commit crime or be induced to acts mean and contemptible. Too true even to-day are Virgil's words: "*Quid non mortalia pectora coges, Auri sacra fames?*" What will you not compel mortal breasts to do, cursed lust for gold? The geologist, with his pick, or his humble but sordid, vulture-like follower, the "prospector," means to the uneducated eye a public benefactor, who may find that purest but most degrading metal, the search for which is the mainspring and motor of so many lives. Who that has travelled in the far West has not seen the magic effect in removing difficulties of the words "I am working for the Geological Survey!" And yet—I say not as a wail—there is no such respect for the "bug sharp" or "grasshopper tenderfoot," who has saved them there, in that very country, the very means of subsistence, and he is only treated to shakes of the head and sinister looks, as though he were some dangerous character, when in answer to their questions "What are they for?" "What do you do with them?" he can not assure his interrogators that he either eats or, that which last of all he would do, sells his specimens.

But I have said that the change for the better in this respect has even now set in. Already the most highly civilized nations of the world, nobly headed by the Government of the most practical and energetic people on the face of the globe, the inhabitants of the United States of America, have seen the advantage of appointing specialists who can devise means for the prevention of the enormous losses of revenue due to the attacks of injurious insects. Germany, England and her colonies, notably Canada and particularly the province of Ontario, France, Italy, and other nations, all have followed the lead, and our favorite science has now changed from a study and amusement of the few to one of the most important branches of practical agriculture, the elements of which must be known by all engaged in tilling the soil or they will surely suffer. Already it finds a place upon the curricula of many of our schools and colleges and before long will force itself upon the notice of others. There has been a rapid development in this line, not only in this country but everywhere, during the last two or three years, and many new men have come to the front. My presumption does not carry me so far as to criticise these or other workers; but perhaps I may be permitted to refer to some of the dangers which beset a newly appointed entomologist, and particularly a young one. In such a task one must necessarily (for safety's sake) refer to what has occurred to himself in his own experience. The first consideration must of course always be to succeed in the work which you have undertaken, and I can not help thinking that some err considerably when they think that they will be expected to know everything and must answer every question off hand. On this point I am speaking particularly of our relations with farmers, who are as a rule very practical men, made so by the exigencies of their lives, but who are frequently those who have not had the advantages of a liberal education, and consequently have not the consideration and moderation which that alone gives. Moreover, as there is no policy so poor, because it is invariably seen through, as that which prompts an entomologist, when seeking information from one whom he knows is better posted than himself, to try and hide his lack of knowledge by making excuses why he does not recognise that exact specimen, or by asking indefinite questions in the hope of getting what he requires, without in so many words acknowledging his ignorance, so in the same way does he expose himself to the contempt and want of confidence