

unable to determine the species to which it belonged; it is pleasing, however, to know that there are several friendly helpers among the insect tribes aiding man in his efforts to subdue this obnoxious insect.

The Codling Moth of the apple is less abundant than usual this year, a scarcity which may be attributed to the early hatching of the moths during the very warm days of spring, and many of them perishing before the blossoms of the apple were sufficiently far advanced for them to operate on. Attention has been called again to the curious fact already noted in Europe many years ago, that the larva of this insect is sometimes occupied by a strange parasite, a species of *Mermis*, known commonly as a hair-snake, a name probably due to the absurd belief, not yet quite extinct, that horse-hairs placed in water eventually become endued with life, and change to hair-snakes. Several instances have occurred of late in the United States of these remarkable creatures being found in the interior of apples, where they had lived as parasites on the Codling worm, and having destroyed their host, remained in the fruit about the middle, where they were in danger of being eaten.

The Plum Curculio is no longer a stranger in that once famed plum-producing district of which Goderich is the centre. So plentiful has it become there now that some plum-growers are becoming quite discouraged and ready to give up the culture of the fruit entirely. This troublesome insect has not yet been reported from the Owen Sound district, where plum-culture is still extensively and profitably carried on.

The importance of the study of natural history in our schools, especially the branch of Entomology, is beginning to be recognized, and I trust the day is not far distant when every public school will have its museum of natural history objects, where the children can be taught with the specimens before them the names and habits of the commoner mammals, birds, insects, and plants, with which they must constantly come in contact. Such studies would, in my opinion, strengthen the intellect and cultivate the memory and other faculties of the mind more thoroughly than many of the more abstract studies now specially designed for that purpose, while the practical value of such knowledge to the fortunate possessor, in after life, can scarcely be over-estimated. I am glad to state that at the Model Farm in Guelph the important study of insects injurious to agriculture is regularly taught, with the aid of a very fair collection of specimens.

The meeting of the Entomological Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held this year at St. Louis, where some very interesting papers on destructive insects were read, and some curious facts in reference to insect life elicited. Our Society was ably represented by a member of our Editing Committee, Mr. E. B. Reed. It will doubtless be a source of gratification to you to learn that your President has again been honoured with the Vice-Presidency of that distinguished body of naturalists.

During the year some interesting additions have been made to our Entomological literature, which we can only now partially and briefly enumerate. Among the most valuable are the "Entomological Contributions," by J. A. Lintner; "Descriptions of Noctuidæ," by A. R. Grote; "Food Plants of the Tineina, with Descriptions of New Species," by V. T. Chambers, both published in the Bulletin of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey; "Manual of the Apiary," by A. J. Cook; on "Sexual Dimorphism in Butterflies," by Samuel H. Scudder; also several papers by the same author on fossil insects found in the Rocky Mountains, and in the Tertiary Beds at Quesnel, in British Columbia; "Insects Injurious to the Cotton Plant," with many plates, by Townend Glover; "On the Butterflies and Moths of North America," by Hermann Strecker. Several additional numbers of Edwards' "Butterflies of North America" have appeared, each one rivalling or surpassing its predecessor in the exquisite beauty of the plates illustrating the species described.

The publications of our own Society have been creditably maintained. Our Annual Report to the Department of Agriculture for the past year has been very favourably noticed, and our *Canadian Entomologist* has been issued regularly, its pages being well filled, chiefly with the records of original observations. The contributors to our last volume numbered no less than forty-five, and included the names of nearly every Entomologist of note on the continent. During the year we have published two handsome lithographic plates, one on wood-boring beetles, illustrating eight species; the other, which is printed in colours, exhibits the full-grown larva of that rare and interesting moth, *Samia columbica*. Among the most valuable papers I would mention those of W. H. Edwards, on the preparatory