

CORRESPONDENCE.

USE OF CHLOROFORM IN COLLECTING.

Dear Sir,—In the article of Henry S. Saunders, on Collecting at the Electric Light (CAN. ENT., Feb., 1887), he gives his experience in the use of cyanide of potassium and chloroform as follows: "Cyanide of potassium I found the best poison; a few drops of chloroform on cotton would quiet them more quickly, but was more troublesome, the chloroform having to be frequently renewed, occasionally as often as four or five times during the same evening, and sometimes even then the moths would be found alive the next morning."

I should like to explain my method of collecting with chloroform. I have found it better than any other, whether at the electric light or in the field:

Take a glass fruit jar, one in which the lid screws down upon a rubber cushion or packing. Put a bunch of cotton in the bottom, retaining it in its place by pressing down upon it a circular piece of pasteboard, made to fit tightly in the jar, except that two or three notches should be left in the edge for the chloroform to run through to the cotton. Saturate the cotton with chloroform and screw the lid down tight. The bottle is now ready for use, and it will be found that an insect dropped into it will be suffocated almost instantly by the fumes of chloroform that completely fill the bottle. A feeble flutter for a second, a kick or two, and all is over. As soon as the insect is dropped into the bottle, screw the lid down again, and as it fits air tight, the chloroform will not evaporate too rapidly. Less than a teaspoonful will last for a whole evening's work. If on retiring from the work the chloroform seems nearly exhausted, it would be well to pour in a few drops more, and then close the lid for the night. If these precautions are taken the insects will never revive.

Chloroform, when used in this manner, will be found to possess many advantages over any other poison. It is quicker in its action, much more convenient, and under all circumstances entirely harmless. I use this form of collecting bottle both for the electric light and in the field. The bottle will contain, without injury to the specimens, the captures of a whole evening, or a whole day.

If, through carelessness, so much chloroform has been poured into