

a yard in depth and is fastened to a light bamboo pole which may vary in length from three to fifteen feet. I have always found it necessary to be equipped with a long and a short pole, because with a short-handled net one is unable to reach the moths which circle back and forth around the light, and with a long net it is impossible to capture those which fly close by or drop down stupefied for a moment by the glare. In each man's capacious pocket is a cyanide bottle, the instrument of death to the captives. This may vary in size, but must always be provided with a wide mouth. In the bottom of the bottle lumps of cyanide are cemented by a layer of plaster of Paris, and the poisonous fumes which arise from beneath quickly overcome even the hardiest of insects. If expecting a large catch, it is advisable to have a metal box, with a moist cork floor on which to pin out the specimens which have succumbed to the deadly fumes.

With this equipment my companion and I started out one evening in the month of June. When we reached our hunting-ground it was just dusk and of course too early for the regular night-flyers. We came early in order to capture the dusk-flyers, which are commonly called hawk-moths (*Sphingidae*). There were several lilac bushes in bloom, not far from the light, and around them were many of these swift-darting creatures, taking their evening meal of nectar. They fly so swiftly and dodge so warily that, out of ten casts with the net, one does not expect to be successful more than once or twice; but they are so highly prized by collectors that even a small catch is thankfully received.

After half an hour, spent with good success at the lilac bushes, we decided to desist, partly because the darkness had greatly increased and partly because we had frightened away the objects of our pursuit. We then pinned out our trophies in the box which we had provided for their reception. They were beautiful creatures indeed. Large, tapering bodies, long, slender, hawk-like wings and bright, glistening eyes—all these combine to make a unique insect which is rarely if ever encountered by any but the collector. While we were at work under the light we kept a weather eye or two on our surroundings, expecting the arrival of moths at any time. We had not long to wait, for the