

in waste places, and he found about one-half of the timothy destroyed by them; after the rain set in the injury was very much reduced.

Mr. Geddes spoke of some variations in size that he had observed in the common yellow butterfly, *Colias philodice*, and expressed his opinion that the large specimens fed on clover and the small on lucerne.

Mr. Howard (of Washington) gave an account of the success which has attended the efforts of Dr. Riley and himself to introduce parasites of the Fluted-Scale insect (*Icerya purchasi* Maskell), a very destructive creature in California. This noxious insect had appeared very suddenly in the State, from where no one knew. Experiments were made upon it, and remedies proposed, but the cultivators did not seem to care to make use of them on their plantations. They then set to work to learn its life-history, and soon found that it came from Australia. They corresponded with Mr. Percy Crawford regarding it; he found the insect in Australia, but it was not at all abundant; they concluded, therefore, that it was kept in check by parasites. A dipterous parasite was found by Mr. Crawford. Their next proceeding was to send Mr. Koebele to Australia. He found the insect everywhere, and observed that it was very commonly parasitized. He then sent over about 15,000 living specimens of parasites; these were liberated at Los Angeles. He also found a "Lady-bird" (*Coccinella*) feeding on the scale-insect, and sent several thousand of them. The result has not been satisfactory with the dipterous parasite, as it breeds too slowly, but one of the species of Lady-birds breeds most rapidly, and will no doubt keep the pest within due bounds. As an instance of this he mentioned that 400 Lady-birds were sent to one planter, Colonel Robins, in May last; he thought from their satisfactory work that his orchard would be free from the pest by the close of the summer, but he afterwards wrote to say that on the 15th of August there was not one living scale-insect left. The experiment had been entirely successful. Mr. Howard also referred to the importation of the parasites in 1883 of the cabbage-butterfly, *Pieris rapæ*.

Dr. Bethune gave an account of his attempt to import from England many years ago the parasites of the wheat midge, and of the failure of the effort.

Dr. Brodie was strongly of opinion that noxious insects should be fought by means of parasites; that this was the true scientific method,