

By Mr. McGregor:

Q. Would you advise the use of tar paper for robes?—A. It will help.

Q. I have tried successfully for years and I have found tar paper the very best thing you can get? A. It is a good deal more trouble and expense to get tar paper than ordinary newspaper.

Q. Moths are so susceptible to its influence?—A. Yes, it certainly is a good deterrent, but it does not matter how susceptible they may be to the odour, if the moths do not lay their eggs upon clothes and robes, no injury can be done.

Q. But I mean to wrap them in tar paper in boxes?—A. Certainly, it is very effective if it is done soon enough, but if the robes were not wrapped up until the eggs were laid, even that would not prevent them being injured.

Q. I would suggest the robes be thoroughly beaten out before putting away. Farmers lose so many by leaving it a little late in the season?—A. They do most certainly, and that is the chief point I wish to emphasize.

Q. But if they are thoroughly shaken up and put in the sun, and then wrapped in the tar paper, I think they will be entirely cleared of moths?—A. Yes, but if the eggs are hatched all the beating and putting in the sun would not have the effect of destroying them. You might beat many out and destroy many more by the heat of the sun, but if any were left, damage would be done. The chief thing is to do it soon enough, and to recognize that directly the winter is gone, woollen things and furs should be put away as soon as possible. If there is any doubt about eggs having been laid, it is a good thing to keep robes and everything else in a convenient place where they will be frequently seen, and not wrap them up too soon, but keep them shaken and beaten frequently for some time before putting them away, so that you can examine them and see if they are safe. A caterpillar does not come except from an egg laid by a moth, and no conditions or susceptibility of the material can produce a caterpillar unless the eggs have been laid. If we put off wrapping up clothes till late in the season, we are liable to have injury. The thing is to shake and brush things well, and then put them away carefully.

*Carpet Beetle.*—Another insect which has appeared rather strangely in Canada, and has lately spread alarmingly through the Brantford district and west to London, and from London to Toronto in considerable numbers, is a little beetle known as the "Carpet beetle" or "Buffalo moth" (*anthrenus scrophularia*). I have said that it is strangely distributed, because the only other places I have heard of it besides those mentioned are at Fort Macleod, North-west Territory, and here at Ottawa. It is called a "moth," because it destroys clothes, as does the carpet moth. It is, however, really a little black beetle with conspicuous white and red marks on it; it is less than one-eighth of an inch long. It affects carpets where they are nailed down close to the skirting board, and particularly those carpets which have any red in them. Evidently the red dye has an attraction for the insect, for it will eat out the red and leave the rest of the colours untouched. I have seen an account of injuries to carpets in which this insect is described as having cut out strips right through the middle, as if cut with a knife. Evidently there is something pleasant in the red dye which the insect likes. This little beetle has lately spread very much in Canada, and has been very troublesome. It has been called, "the despair of good housekeepers," as even good housekeepers cannot keep it down without a good deal of care. The remedy which is recommended in the Washington division of entomology in regard to carpets which are infested is a good one. The plan there recommended is to spread damp cloths upon the carpets and iron them with very hot flat irons. This has the effect of generating steam, and sends it down into the cracks in the floor, and in this way the insect is killed in all stages. Another remedy which may be mentioned is sprinkling the carpets freely with gasoline or benzine. Neither of these would injure the carpet, and they would certainly destroy the insects. As these materials are very dangerous from their inflammability, great care would have to be taken not to carry a light into the rooms where carpets had been recently sprinkled with either of these inflammable liquids, until the room had been aired.