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A SERVICEABLE INSECTARY.

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With the constantly increasing activity in applied entomology in America, the necessity for rooms or apartments especially adapted for the study of the development of insects is becoming each year more imperative. The insectary has, in fact, become almost as necessary to the working entomologist as has the laboratory to the chemist. While it is especially true in entomological investigations that one must "study nature where nature is," it is equally true that one cannot, in all cases, watch with the necessary care and constant application in the fields that he will be able to do in a fairly well equipped insectary. Not only can forms be transported thousands of miles while in an inactive state and their development watched at close range, as it were, but eggs and larvæ may be brought in during late autumn or winter and studied through their various stages, frequently long before they have appeared outside; and in cases of uncommon or unfamiliar forms this will give the investigator a vast amount of information that he can use to great advantage when the species appears in the fields under a natural condition, perhaps months later.

In the following it is not the intent of the writer to present an illustrated article on a "model" insectary, but to describe one that is in actual use, and the evolution of which has been the direct result of that mother of all invention — necessity. When any demand for certain facilities in order to study any particular species of insect has arisen, and this has constantly been the case, the ingenuity of myself and my assistant has been drawn upon to devise the best methods of accomplishing this end, and thus our insectary at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station has come into existence. The only object in presenting this paper is to place in the hands of working entomologists some ideas in regard to an insectary and its equipment, from which they can deviate as their position and requirements may demand. In other words, it may be used as something to work from in their efforts to get that which will best suit their requirements.