

plants disappear and are replaced by intruders from afar. The primeval forest perishes ; its larger denizens are slaughtered or driven away, and the plants and animals that remain are such as can best adapt themselves to the changed conditions of the land.

Many persons may recognize these self-assertive changes and still not stop to think that our insect fauna and even those smaller forms of life that delight the microscopist are also similarly affected by the far-spread improvements or disturbances of the landscape.

Yet a moment's consideration will suffice to show that such is actually the result. An insect may be able to exist only upon a single species of plant, and the destruction of that host-plant involves the disappearance of its guest. Or, the actual change in physical conditions may equally well bring about a change in the insect life. The draining of a swamp and its gradual conversion into dry woods or open fields necessitate the withdrawal of those species which require a cold moist habitat, and correspondingly tend to create conditions favourable for forms from more southern localities. These changes go on steadily year after year whether we notice them or not, and the destruction of the forest, the cultivation of the land, the pasturing of flocks and herds, and ever expanding commerce accelerate the alterations in insect population. Our indigenous insects are supplanted by prolific and vigorous forms from lands where evolution has fitted them to successfully overcome the disadvantages of man's society and solitudes. The species whose food plants are destroyed, and which are unable to assimilate the new order of vegetation, disappear, accompanied by many of their parasitic and predatory associates. Replacing them come insects from near or afar, especially those thoroughly domesticated forms which follow man wherever he pitches his tent or builds his shack.

In a discussion of the insect population as it now appears to our collectors, a difficulty arises at the start in our inability, in many instances, to distinguish between the descendants of the