

It is well known that the seeds of certain noxious weeds will sometimes lie dormant in the soil for almost any number of years, awaiting a favorable opportunity for germinating; but it is not so generally known that the development of insect life is sometimes similarly retarded. It has many times been observed that a few individuals out of a large brood of moths will remain in the chrysalis state over one season and produce the perfect insect the following year, thus remaining a full year more in the dormant condition than is usual, and instances are on record where the perfect insects have escaped after three years spent in this condition of torpor. Recently, Prof. Riley, of Washington, has called attention to a very remarkable case of retarded development in the eggs of the destructive Rocky Mountain Locust, *Caloptenus spretus*. These eggs were laid in 1876 on the grounds of the Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas. While grading the ground around the chemical laboratory in the autumn a quantity of the eggs were buried some ten inches below the surface, the covering material being clay, old mortar and bits of stone, and above this a plank sidewalk. On removing and regrading the soil last spring a number of these eggs were disinterred quite sound and fresh-looking, and when exposed to normal influences they readily hatched, so that these locusts' eggs actually remained nearly four years and a half in the ground unhatched, or four years longer than is their wont. How much longer they would have retained their vitality under favorable conditions of temperature and dryness is unknown. This point has a very practical bearing and deserves further investigation, not only in reference to the eggs of this insect, but to those of all injurious species whose eggs are deposited on or under the ground.

The Sub-Section of Entomology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science met this year at Cincinnati, Ohio, where I had the honor of representing our Society. A large number of distinguished Entomologists were present, and many useful papers read and discussions held at the meetings. An account of the proceedings will appear in our Annual Report. It having been decided to hold the next meeting of the American Association in Montreal, I trust that our representative men in all departments of science will be present to greet with a hearty welcome the distinguished scientists from the United States and abroad, who will on that occasion honor the Dominion with their presence. I have strong hopes that the Entomologists of Canada will turn out in good force.

If the progress of a science is to be indicated by its literature and the