

CABINET PEST DETERRENT.

One of the most worrying things an entomologist has to put up with is that after carefully making a collection his most valued specimens are nearly eaten away, either with mites or the *Dermestes* beetle.

For the benefit of my brother enthusiasts, let me give briefly my personal experience. Last June captures at light were very good and numerous. Many rare insects were taken and set out. The setting-boards were placed on a shelf. By the morning the contents of three boards were literally eaten away by large black ants, house flies, and the little black and orange beetle. If my thoughts had been candidly expressed I am afraid my reputation would have been irretrievably lost, so I hunted around for a remedy and was soon successful in finding one.

The ingredients are —

Corrosive Sublimate, 2 dr.;

Turpentine, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.;

Rectified Spirits of Wine, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.

These are simply mixed together.

Directions.—First shake the bottle briskly. Take a small camel's-hair brush and apply a thin streak of this preparation under the body of each insect, taking care not to touch the wings. (Better try the effect on some common moths first.)

Now comes the test of ten months. The preparation was applied to several *Cecropi*as, while others were placed beside these without being so treated. These were all laid on a shelf. Next morning the bodies of the unprepared moths were mere shells. Ants and beetles were having no end of a feast. Not so with the others. They are there yet and not a sign of a mite, beetle or ant to be seen.

As regards boxes, cabinets, etc., apply a thin line of the preparation all around the sides, forming, as it were, a cordon. No other chemical is required in the cabinet.

If specimens are already infected. run some gasoline into the boxes and close them up. This will kill the larvæ and mites in a few minutes. Camphor is utterly useless. In re-papering setting-boards or drawers use a little of the solution in the paste. Be careful not to use methylated spirits.

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