

A. Watson in the *American Home Garden*, says that the most promising remedy is to "pave closely under the tree with clam or oyster shells, the instinct of the insect leading it to avoid depositing its eggs in fruit from which, when they drop, its progeny can find no safe retreat." Mr. Downing speaks of plum trees growing in hard trodden court-yards which usually bear plentiful crops. Some have also recommended the use of chips and small pieces of wood placed around the trees as traps for the curculio, but it is very doubtful if any of these methods will ever take the place of jarring.

NATURE PRINTED BUTTERFLIES.

By JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA, ONT.

The season of warm days, flowers, and butterflies is over now, and the look-out is cold, bleak and bare. Apparently there is little for the scientific lover of nature to do in the way of collections at this time of year; such however is far from being actually the case, as all who have collected will testify. It is in fact one of the busiest seasons for collectors. All the treasures gathered during the summer months have to be *gone through*. In the first place those known have to be taken out and sorted away into their proper places in the cabinet; the remainder then have to be re-sorted and divided up into sets according to the families to which they appear to belong, and after this they have to be examined critically and if possible identified. It frequently happens that a collector of butterflies has an opportunity of capturing a large number of some local species, in one day, and finds it impossible or irksome to set them all before they become too dry, as they will in a very short time in hot weather. When they are once dry, too, one is apt to think that as they can get no worse they may safely be put aside until some more convenient occasion to be relaxed and set up, but this convenient occasion, like a good many others, is sometimes very long coming, and many valuable specimens are thus lost. An accident which occurred to the glass of one of my butterfly cabinet drawers lately, was the means of reminding me of a process shewn me some years ago by a Captain Lloyd, of the English Navy. The accident referred to was the breaking of the cover of one of my cases which contained some rare butterflies, in consequence of which it was impossible to close the door of the cabinet tightly. My horror can be better imagined than expressed when, upon opening the door and pulling out this drawer, about a fortnight afterwards, I found that there was not a single perfect specimen in it—a mouse had got in and what was once a neatly arranged case of butterflies was now nothing but a chaos of nibbled bodies, loose wings, pins, and labels. I had not the heart at first to throw out these fragments and so wipe out entirely the pleasing recollections each brought up in my mind of rambles through the woods and in the country; so carefully gathering up the wings I put them away in a little box. The idea then struck me of printing them as I had seen my old friend do them—and as I think it would be a very convenient way for Entomologists and agriculturists to send butterflies for identification, when spare duplicates are to be had, I am induced to send a description of the *modus operandi*. Take the insect in your left hand, holding it beneath the thorax, then with a pair of sharply-pointed scissors cut off the wings as close to the body as possible; occasionally, unless the scissors are very sharp, some of the muscles are torn away from the thorax with the wings, these must be carefully removed; arrange the wings in pairs and put them with the body on one side in some convenient place where they may be easily got at when you are ready for them. Now take a piece of white paper of the size required, and fold it in two like a sheet of note paper, then with a camel-hair brush lay on a thin wash of perfectly clear gum arabic, fold down the upper half and pass the hand lightly over it so as to spread the gum evenly between the two sides; now re-open it, and taking up the wings with the tip of the brush, the lower ones first, arrange them carefully in the position wanted, leaving space enough intervening between the two pairs to paint in the body afterwards. Spare no pains in arranging the wings; this corresponds with "setting" for a cabinet. I have seen many good collections of insects, made by amateurs, rendered almost useless by the want of a little thought on this point. The proper position for a but-

terfly to be go wrong. and put yo leave mine window-pa carefully d on an even line. Afte two sides v is a perfect the under s tion of this look at are great care i scales will i

The w this is the f pen and son you and cop the colour o scissors, pas locality and easier to put of their frag an artist, a designs with of course too to which the added.

The chi convenience identification handling tha the fact that at once, and examined an imperfect spe parts with w have some pr years ago wh caught here.