

A NIGHT'S COLLECTING FOR MOTHS AT MEECH LAKE, QUE.*

ARTHUR GIBSON.

On the invitation of Mr. C. H. Young, I paid a visit to the above charming place on the evening of the 14th of August last. Leaving Ottawa on the evening train I was met at Chelsea by Mr. Young, and after a lovely drive of half an hour or so, we reached his cottage on the west shore of Meech Lake. As it was my first visit to this delightful, uncrowded, summer resort, I enjoyed the outing immensely and only regretted that I could not spare the time to stay longer.

After we had attended to the inner man, we immediately began to arrange our poison bottles and other collecting apparatus. This done, we started out to "sugar" a number of trees, which had already been used by Mr. Young for that purpose. The term "sugar" has a special entomological meaning; the "sugar" itself is a mixture of molasses and sour beer, which is smeared on to the trunks of trees, fence posts, etc., at dusk, for the purpose of attracting moths belonging chiefly to the family Noctuidæ. Some collectors thin the molasses by adding a small quantity of rum or brandy, but the sour beer is just as good, and is cheaper. This method of collecting moths will be found to give the best results on warm, moist, cloudy nights. As soon as we had sugared about thirty trees, and placed our poison bottles in convenient pockets, we started out on the first round. When two are sugaring it is always best for one to hold the dark lantern, while the other does the bottling, or catching. Care must be taken not to direct the light too strongly, or too suddenly, upon the tree bearing the mixture; if this is done many of the moths will be frightened away. It is also well to have several good poison bottles on hand, to be used alternately after four or five specimens have been caught.

On completing our first round, we emptied our catch into a large poison bottle and were then ready to make the trip again. After having gone the rounds about five times and deposited our

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