

MEETINGS OF ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

Meeting No. 11 was held at Dr. Fletcher's on January 14th, 1904; seven present. Dr. Fletcher explained that the meetings had been interrupted for several months, owing to absence of members and to other causes, but that in resuming them it was recognized that they were of much value to the members, upon whom he called to set forth the results of their past season's collecting and observations. Mr. Gibson read a paper on "An Interesting Enemy of the Iris," in which he described the larva of *Macronoctua onusta*, which had infested the stems of irises at the Experimental Farm. Dr. Fletcher instanced, among such stem-boring caterpillars, the larva of *Gortyna purpurifascia* which had in a previous season greatly infested their columbines. Mr. Gibson said that larvæ of the rare *Apantesis superba* (var. *nevadensis*, Dyar's List) had been received from Vernon, B.C., and had been successfully reared. Of six caterpillars, two had been inflated and four bred to the moth. Larvæ of *A. docta* (var. *arizonensis*) had also been received from Phoenix, Ariz. Dr. Fletcher spoke of the value of the chitinous head-case of some larvæ as of even greater value than the skin in determining the number of the moult of the caterpillar. In reply to an enquiry by Dr. Sinclair as to the chief value of breeding these forms, he explained that one of the principal aims of such studies was to ascertain that stage in the life of the insect in which injurious forms might be most easily and economically destroyed. The habits of various cutworms were mentioned, and the remedies, such as bunches of poisoned weeds, etc., which might be applied to check their depredations. Mr. Metcalfe exhibited a collection of Homoptera, chiefly the smaller leaf-hoppers, which he had made at Breckville during the summer. There were about forty species named by Mr. Van Duzee, and many of these were represented by long series of carefully mounted specimens. He also showed samples of the curious little Chrysomelid beetle, *Exema dispar*, which is obtained from goldenrods by using a sweeping or beating-net, and which probably escapes many enemies by its marked resemblance to the excrement of caterpillars. Mr. Baldwin showed the results