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ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF ONTARIO.

*Gentlemen* : The working entomologist, ever on the watch and ready to note the many items of interest in connection with insect life, will seldom pass a season without finding many facts worthy of record, which if not of general interest, are at least of local importance. While the year 1884 has not been marked by any unusual invasion of destructive insects, affecting our country as a whole and exciting general comment, yet many localities have suffered, either from the unusual development of familiar forms of insect life, or from the introduction of new pests.

Early in the year some excitement was caused in the Ottawa district by the appearance of a very destructive caterpillar in great numbers in the clover fields, which rapidly devoured the foliage. This was at first supposed to be an invasion of the veritable army worm, but on inspection it proved to be a very different insect. On the 23rd of May I had the opportunity of examining some of the affected fields in company with our Vice-President and Mr. W. H. Harrington. The caterpillars were exceedingly numerous, and much of the clover had been seriously injured by them. They were a species of cut-worm, the progeny of a moth known as *Agrotis fennica*.

This larva measured from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, had a dark yellowish brown head with a black stripe down the front, and a black body with two yellow stripes on each side, the upper one composed of streaks and dots of yellow, the lower, which was near the under surface, formed of two crinkled yellow lines which approached each other on the anterior segments and diverged posteriorly. On the upper part of the second segment was a black horny shield; the breathing holes on the sides were also surrounded with black.

The underside was brownish black, the feet and the fleshy pro-legs pale brown.

At the time of this visit the caterpillars were nearly full grown, and it was observed that many of them were affected by a singular disease of a fungoid character which was destroying them very rapidly, the diseased insects after death remaining extended on the leaves of clover or blades of grass in a natural position, but somewhat discolored. On handling them the skin was found to be quite tender and the body filled with a thin, dark-colored fluid, the result of the decomposition of the tissues. This