

associated with them, but they are entirely harmless, and are among our most beneficial insects.

The dragon-fly and damsel-fly belong to the *Odonata* order of insects (Gr. *odons* (*odont*), a tooth). This order is distinguished by biting mouth-parts and by four equal or nearly equal net-veined wings.

Adult May-flies appear in countless numbers in late spring and early summer, and dance about in the air at dusk in swarms so dense that the atmosphere seems one mass of moving forms, and, after laying their eggs, perish with the day, forming a great food-supply for fishes and birds."

The nymphs live in the water at the bottom of ponds and streams. Along both sides of the abdomen are delicate platelike, fringed tracheal gills, through which it breathes, and at the tip of the abdomen are three feathery appendages. When the "nymph sheds its skin for the last time, the gills and mouth-parts are left behind, and the winged May-fly comes forth," an air breathing creature but without a mouth or any means of taking food." After flying a short distance it alights and again sheds its skin, a thin layer coming off from all parts of the body, even from the wings." In this particular it is the great exception among insects, for no other forms ever molt after becoming winged. In the adult the hind wings are much smaller than the forewings, and the abdomen is tipped with two or three long threadlike appendages, called cerci, which are quite characteristic of May-flies. Look for these forms, and keep specimens for school work.

May-flies belong to the insect order *Plecoptera* (Gr. *plektos*, twisted; *pteron*, wing). They are distinguished by reduced mouth-parts, the great disproportion in size of the anterior and the posterior wings, and by the presence of abdominal filaments.

The United States Department of Agriculture finds that a little powdered borax sifted over a manure pile, about a pound to each bushel of the manure, will kill the eggs of flies. The treatment should be repeated with each addition to the pile, immediately upon its removal from the stable, since the eggs hatch out in one day. The cost is about one cent per horse per day; and if all refuse and garbage were treated in this way there would be no need of fly screens.

SERVIA, ROUMANIA, GREECE.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

Three words, which every teacher talking to the school children about the present war can not avoid. Servia must be used in connection with its beginnings, and who can mention possible new belligerents and not name the other?

I do not confound the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW with the defunct "Fonetic Nuz" nor mean to urge "simplified spelling;" but I wish to refer to spelling. Since the natives of the first of the three countries named spell the root of the name s—r—b, and we ourselves write Serb, why should we soften the b into v? We commonly continue the bad tradition of the unknown who was so deaf that he did not catch the sound or so tongue-tied that he failed to reproduce what he heard. Surely we ought all to write, Serbia. About the u in Roumania, or worse still, in Rumania? The bibliography in any standard encyclopaedia will show that the people spell it as Romania. Only foreigners, as the French and ourselves, refuse to let them spell their own name in their own way. They make it plain that they wish to lay stress on their connection with Rome, from which comes both the language they speak and their proper title. Of course these do not come directly to them from the well known Italian city on the Tiber, but by way of "New Rome," Byzantium, Constantinople on the Bosphorus. That is our excuse. For when the Turks conquered Constantinople, they began to spell the name they found as Rom, Roum or Rum. But should these people want to forget their subjection to the Turks why should we remind them of it by the way we spell the word? That Christian Europe allowed it to go on does little credit to our chivalry. Should they try to link the present not so much with their father, New Rome, as with their grandfather, old Rome, and so spare both their feelings and ours, I for one will not say them nay. Will you help? When the king of Italy offered the other day to mediate between Romania and the Allies, he was influenced by recent events; but Romanian patriots would recall a more distant background. So I come to what I most wish to say. Read that section of history which has to do with New Rome both for your own sake and for the children's. You would rejoice now and then to