

This outbreak, however, was terminated suddenly late in August and in September by a bacterial disease of a very virulent nature. (2) The Birch-tree Skeletonizer (*Bucculatrix Canadensisella*, Chambers). This is a minute moth, the caterpillars of which sometimes occur in vast numbers and attack the foliage of all kinds of Birches. Last summer there was an excessive outbreak of this insect, and Birches throughout the Province of Ontario were much disfigured by having their leaves skeletonized by the tiny caterpillars. The insect is of considerable interest to the Entomologist, from the peculiar habit of the caterpillars, unusual among larvæ, of spinning on the leaves small circular flat shelters called pseudo-cocoons, inside of which they moult their skins. The true cocoons are beautiful little brown objects of an entirely different appearance, resembling a tiny clinker-built boat turned upside down. When full-grown the caterpillars let themselves down to the ground and, after wandering to some distance in search of a suitable place to pass the winter, spin these elegant cocoons. The work of construction is a most interesting one to watch; three-fourths of the cocoon is spun from one end, the caterpillar then crawls inside and closes up the other end. Sometimes many of these cocoons may be found beneath a convenient slab of rock, at other times they are spun on fallen leaves, or on stems of plants close to the ground.

Among the most interesting insects reared during the summer was a family of the minute hymenopterous parasite *Bæus niger*, of which Mr. Harrington reared four males and 20 females from a single cluster of spiders' eggs. This is one of the smallest insects we have, and the females are wingless, while the exceedingly rare males are winged.

Some of our members have made collections of insects in various parts of the Dominion. Mr. J. D. Evans has done good work at Trenton, Ont. Mr. J. M. Macoun, Naturalist of the International Boundary Commission, brought back some choice specimens from the Cheam Mountains, in British Columbia, a locality also visited by Dr. Fletcher with good results.

Of equal value with the work done in working out the life histories of rare insects is a great increase to our knowledge of the preparatory stages of many of our common species, which has been