

## The Rockwood Review.

with the larve of a sort of gadfly, that buries itself beneath their skin about the throat or neck, and is difficult to expel.

The chipmunk chooses a spot in the edge of the forest near to a growing tree, or to a large log, for his winter domicile, and this strategy tends to secure him in undisturbed possession, in consequence of the difficulty of digging among tough and gnarled roots.

The chipmunk seems to be strictly sylvanas to its haunts, though visiting grain fields frequently and is accused of carrying off more grain than seems possible for it to consume; in this respect resembling the gopher of the Western Prairie. These interesting little quadrupeds seem about as numerous in this district, as they were when we first came to live in the bush, forty years ago.

All the squirrel tribe multiply rapidly when forest nuts and acorns abound, and one of my old neighbors used to remark of some of the bush settlers, who brought up large families of children: "Yes, they breed like chipmunks."

Some years since, a boy living near here, related to me that he had found a nest of chipmunks in a hollow log, one of which was beautifully marked with white spots on its sides, resembling the markings on the coat of a fawn, of the fallow deer.

There are two species of forest mice that are said to hibernate, one more persistently than the other. One that is known as the wood mouse, is of a lighter color than the house mouse; and with its hoard of food is frequently found occupying a small hollow high up in the heart of a tree, where they make a cosy nest of moss and other soft materials. In these instances the entrance hole is either underground or else is so small as to be impossible of ingress to robbers of larger size, than the proper owners of the vacancy. It is thought that these mice pass much of the severe cold

time of winter in sleep, but are usually quite lively and alert when accidentally evicted by the operations of the wood chopper.

The other species is called by some the American Dormouse. We have dug them out of their winter retreats in the month of February. These hibernaculums are in the midst of what are called by foresters "cradle knolls," little hammocks of earth in the midst of woods. The cosy nest is generally in the centre of the hillock, and has a crooked entrance tunnel, or passage, closed with leaves or other similar material, when the solitary winter resident is in occupancy. When broken in upon in winter time this species is in a state of torpor, and is as motionless as a dead quadruped, but can be soon revived by warmth. In those instances that came to our knowledge, the little fellows became moderately active after gentle warmth had been applied to them for an hour, and opened their eyes and ran about, and seemed to taste morsels of food that were offered to them.

In one instance that my brother tells of, the mouse when warmed into life, progressed by jumping rather than walking, and at one bound would clear the length of an ordinary table; in fact their agility was remarkable. After a while our little captive went again into the somnolent state, and was so unfortunate as to be made prey of by the house cat!! The curious circumstance about this species is their solitariness in retreat.

The common field mouse is believed to be active the whole winter, and the deep snows are a source of safety and protection to them. In our stubble fields, when the deep wintry snows disappear, great numbers of round soft matted balls of dried grass blades thickly bestrew the grounds; these are hollow and have afforded warmth and comfort to families of field mice, ever since the snowfall, for