

TO NATURALISTS AND OTHERS.

As I am at present working at the Hemiptera of the world, I should be very much obliged for specimens from any part. For the benefit of those who may kindly wish to help, I give a few hints on the collection and preservation of this neglected order of insects. Hemiptera (which include the various insects popularly known as Plant-bugs, Tree-hoppers, Cicadas, Fireflies, Aphides, &c.) resemble in general appearance Beetles, but have more membranous upper wings (or wing cases), and are usually of softer consistence, besides having their mouth provided with a rostrum or proboscis, instead of jaws. In size, Hemiptera vary from an inch or more to less than one line in length. In color they are also variable, some being exceedingly brilliant, others very obscurely colored. They inhabit trees, shrubs and low plants; some run about on the damp margins of streams and lakes, some inhabit the surface of the water, and others swim in the water or crawl on the mud below. A few live under the dead bark of trees, and are usually flat and dull colored. The best mode of catching those on trees and shrubs is by shaking the branches over an inverted umbrella; those that are found on or under low plants (grass or other herbage) may be collected by sweeping the herbage with a net (which can easily be made out of a ring—12-18 inches in diameter—of stout wire, attached to a stick, and having a bag of canvas sewn on to it). They may also be found by searching on flowers and leaves. Those at the margin of the water may be found by searching; those on and in the water by using a net similar to the sweeping one, but with canvas open enough to allow the water, but not the insects, to pass through. Rather shallow, still water, among weeds or in open places among weeds, are the best situations. Many species fly into houses at night, attracted by the lights. In habits these insects are variable: some move slowly, others run or fly with celerity, and others (Tree-hoppers, &c.) jump with great activity. As many species closely resemble each other, it is desirable that *all* specimens met with should be secured. It is also desirable that *small* species as well as large ones should be collected, as it is among the former that most undescribed forms may be expected. To kill and preserve these insects, all that is necessary is that on capture they are put in a bottle filled with spirits of wine (rum, whiskey, &c., will do). Care must be taken, however, that the bottle is kept filled with fluid, otherwise the specimens will be shaken about and broken. So in transit great care must be taken to guard against the evaporation of the spirit. The bottles,