

on the summit a beautiful rose-coloured pubescence. I watched them till they were mature and had the satisfaction of seeing them develop into two fine galls of this not very common species.

My friend, Mr. L. S. White, of this city, like a true chemist, as he is, suggested the idea of weighing the specimens of new insects we describe and tried his plan upon the gall flies taken the other day. The species taken on the buds of *C. q. operator* weighed $4\frac{1}{2}$ milligrammes, while another species, probably *C. q. globulus*, Harris, weighed alive 18 milligrammes. This last was taken on a bud of the White Oak.

Slowly, year by year, the above and other quite as interesting fragments in the history of the Cynipidæ have come to my knowledge, and I hope to live to see their history fully written. It is in such investigations of the habits of insects that our real work and our highest enjoyment as Entomologists consists.

A GLIMPSE OF INSECT LIFE.

BY PROFESSOR BELL, OF BELLEVILLE.

While looking over some old memoranda a few days ago, I found the following, which may prove interesting to the readers of the ENTOMOLOGIST:

In the summer of the year 1830, while residing in the northern part of the County of Northumberland, England, in the capacity of a farm student, I was requested to carry out a sentence of death upon a worthless cur, which had been condemned as an incorrigible cattle chaser. After the execution, I dragged the carcass across some fields to a small clump of Willows near the river Till, and deposited it as an insect trap in a hollow, which, from having been long under water, was devoid of vegetation. In a short time the decomposing carcass became the resort of an immense crowd of the common Blow-fly, *Musca carnifex*, under whose manipulations it soon became a seething mass of the largest, fattest and liveliest of maggots. It also attracted a number of the Silphidæ, especially *Necrophorus humator*, *N. vespillo*, and *Necrodes littoralis*. After capturing as many specimens of these insects as I wanted, I was much interested in observing their proceedings. About forty of them had established a sort of encampment under the vertical wall of the hole, about thirty inches from the carcass, to which each individual ever and anon made a raid and captured a fine fat maggot, which he bore off writhing and wriggling in his mandibles to the camping ground, where it