

to lie flat on the ground, and looks comparatively feeble; that of the latter is ranker and stands much more upright. The plants now (January 1st) look healthy and strong. *P. roseum* lived out of doors in Ohio through last winter without the slightest care or protection in a box above ground. Some of the plants began to grow in February, but a heavy rain, followed immediately by a hard frost, unfortunately killed their roots late in the spring. Had they been in the ground this accident would hardly have happened. So far as I can now see *P. cinerariifolium* is the more hardy of the two. I will report later on my success, if I have any, during the coming season of 1883.

E. W. CLAYPOLE, New Bloomfield, Pa.

*Dear Sir:* An office mate made a capture last summer in a novel manner, but such as would not meet with the favor of entomologists as a method of collecting. He had occasion one hot midsummer day (29th June) to go out for a short time, and on returning complained that a fly had flown into his ear, and, having crawled in as far as possible, was causing great annoyance by a disagreeable buzzing and scratching. I advised him to pour a few drops of oil into the infested organ, or, better still, perhaps, to seek a doctor and have the occupant extracted by skilled labor. On reaching his doctor's office he found that he was absent at a medical convention, but after telephoning all over the city he found a stay-at-home doctor to whom he went and stated the case. An examination of the ear was made, but the doctor could discover nothing in it, and as the buzzing and scraping had then ceased, it was decided that the insect had taken his departure. However, he said it would do no harm to pour a little oil into the ear to allay the irritation which the fly had caused. My friend had not gone far from the office when the insect, which had only been taking a rest or "playing possum," commenced a more violent commotion than ever, causing his unwilling host to hurry home and try the anointing process. Hastily pouring in a few drops of oil, he lay down with his ear on a pillow, and almost immediately felt the intruder withdrawing from his hiding-place and beating a retreat. Lifting his head he was astonished to see, not a fly, as he expected, but a long-legged, active beetle, scampering away. This he imprisoned and bore back triumphantly to me to identify. It proved to be a full-sized and lively specimen of *Acmæops pratensis*. The doctor, on being afterward confronted with the prisoner, was greatly surprised that it had so well secreted itself