

POPULAR AND ECONOMICAL ENTOMOLOGY.

WINTER COLLECTING.

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At the last annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, it was decided that every month there should be at least one short article upon the above subject. The Council consider it wiser not to increase the size of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST at the present time, but to take two pages from the space we now devote to Scientific Entomology. It is true the space at our disposal is all too small to accommodate the valuable articles sent in by our friends, but the demands are so frequent for articles of the nature mentioned, that it has been decided to try the experiment of having them regularly, and it is thus hoped to largely extend the influence of the Society by inducing more lovers of nature to take up Entomology as a study, and by providing agriculturists and horticulturists with short and simple accounts of their insect enemies and the latest discovered remedies. It has been suggested that the winter is an inappropriate time of the year to begin such a series of articles; but upon slight consideration this will be found to be not at all the case. In the continuous chain of nature, great interest will be found at every link and thing unexpected, strange and of marvellous beauty will appear at every point. Even in Canada, snow and ice-bound for so many months in the year, there is much collecting which can be done in the winter. A favorite occupation of the writer is to go off collecting with a congenial companion upon snow-shoes. The charm of this pleasant exercise in which, supported by the light snow-shoes, one can visit places inaccessible during the summer, is in no way diminished by being able to take home with you specimens which will afford ample occupation for many evenings. Starting off in a straight line many objects of interest are met with as we go along, across field and fences, through woods and swamps and over rivers, hills or even mountains, all levelled and smoothed down to an even surface by their thick covering of ice and snow. In passing through the woods and swamps cocoons are eagerly looked for on the slender boughs of trees and shrubs. It is seldom that we are not rewarded with cocoons of the large Emperor moths. In crevices of bark and beneath moss, many hibernating insects are discovered of several orders. Larvæ of moths and chrysalids of butterflies, beetles and hemiptera. One of our annual trips is to a certain