

specimen was obtained, nor does he say anything of the ♂, which differs considerably from the ♀.

I have also bred numerous specimens of the Chalcid *Eurytoma aulacis*, Ashm.; and I have reared two species of Coleoptera, probably accidental occupants, and many specimens of a Dipteron which Prof. Riley has kindly determined for me as of the genus *Leucopis*, sp. I am greatly indebted to the courtesy of Prof. Riley for this and many other identifications.

ENTOMOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS—No. 1.

NOTES ON KILLING, PRESERVING AND RELAXING INSECTS.

BY JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA.

The editor informs me that he wishes to publish in this year's volume of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST several short articles for the benefit of beginners and many others, who, although they do not aspire to being considered entomologists, yet would like to know something about our common insects, and the best way to preserve such interesting specimens as may chance to come in their way, until they may have an opportunity of mounting them for their own collections or giving them to interested friends. I have been asked to send some notes on the above subject.

There is perhaps no statement more frequently made to entomologists by observant travellers, or those who live in localities far removed from civilization, than "Oh! I wish you had been with me, I so often saw lovely insects; but I did not know how to save them for you." From novices the enquiry often comes, "What is the best way to relax specimens after they have become dry."

Killing and Preserving.—Having collected a specimen the first thing, of course, is to kill it. For beetles and hard-bodied insects nothing is simpler than to drop them for a second or two into scalding water; they must be taken out again at once and dried on blotting paper, or upon a cloth. The easiest way, however, for killing all insects is to make a "cyanide bottle." This may be made either by placing a small quantity of cyanide of potassium in the bottom of a wide-mouthed bottle and pouring in sufficient wet plaster-of-paris to cover it; or a hole can be hollowed out in the cork and a piece of cyanide inserted. This can be kept in place either with a plug of cotton wool, or a piece of chamois