

York, and Prof. A. R. Grote, of Bremen, Germany, who have spared no pains in determining for me some difficult species of moths.

Finally I beg again to thank my many correspondents for their assistance in the past and to request a continuance of the favour for the future. I am more than ever convinced that if my work is to be of use to the country, much of the information made use of and distributed through this means, must be derived from practical men, actually engaged in the cultivation of the soil. In this way *theory* as such, will be eliminated as much as possible and will make way for *practical experience*, the most important element of all success. Moreover, this experience will be gained under ordinary circumstances and with the usual methods which are found practicable on the average Canadian farm. Thus the most applicable remedies will be discovered and made known as promptly and widely as possible. If suggested remedies fail, the reason must be sought for, and if they prove useless, farmers must be warned against them, so that no time may be lost which might be better employed.

The subjects treated of in the following pages are those concerning which I have been most frequently asked for information. These in no way represent all the facts which have been contributed by correspondents from all parts of the country. These have been tabulated and will be of use at some future time when full credit will be given for all original observations.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

JAMES FLETCHER, F.R.S.C., F.L.S.,  
*Entomologist and Botanist of the Dominion Experimental Farms.*

## CEREALS.

### WHEAT.

Had it not been for the exceptionally good crop of wheat in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, the output of this staple crop would have been considerably below the average. To the excessive drought which prevailed over the greater part of Canada this shortage was mainly due; but there were also many complaints of the fungous diseases, rust, smut, and bunt. The "Wheat Midge" attacked wheat more or less in every section heard from. The Hessian-fly was reported from a few localities, but it is probable that in some of these cases the true predator was the Wheat-stem Maggot. This last named is apparently on the increase in the districts where it has been observed.

#### The Wheat Midge, "the Weevil" (*Diplosis tritici*, Kirby.)

*Attack.*—When the wheat is in blossom in the month of June, tiny yellow Midges with black eyes, may be found, particularly as evening comes on, flying over and laying eggs in the florets of the wheat. These eggs in about a week hatch into small reddish-orange maggots which lie inside the chaff and suck the juices from the swelling kernel. When mature they leave the ears of wheat and penetrate about an inch beneath the surface of the ground, where they remain for a time, and either produce the perfect Midges that same summer or remain dormant until the next spring. Prof. F. M. Webster, of Purdue University, Indiana, a close observer and energetic worker, writes: "It has been supposed that these larvæ when full fed either entered the ground and remained until the following June, or remained ensconced in the