

Washington variety. The interests of these two cheerful creatures conflict. Their sanguinary occupations lead them to the same hunting-ground, and sometimes there are not worms enough to go round.

On such an occasion as this a soldier-bug, awaking early with a bad headache and a tremendous desire for a cocktail, found a solitary web-worm, inserted his beak into the wriggling body, as one would put a straw into a brandy smash, and began to suck. At this moment a wheel-bug discovered the pair, and stuck his beak into the back of the soldier-bug, and also began to suck.

There was the soldier-bug in precisely the situation of Munchausen's horse. As fast as he sucked the blood of the caterpillar, it was sucked out of him by the wheel-bug. The observer's sympathy for the web-worm was lost in admiration for the pluck of the soldier-bug and in sorrow for his predicament, until both admiration and sorrow were overcome by the brilliant thought that in this observation was Munchausen substantiated.

CIMEX.

BOOK NOTICE.

"AMERICAN SPIDERS AND THEIR SPINNING-WORK.—A Natural History of the Orb-weaving Spiders of the United States, with Special Regard to their Industry and Habits: By HENRY C. McCook, D. D., author and publisher, Philadelphia, Vols. I. to III., 1889-1894."

It is with pleasure that the nature-loving public congratulates Dr. McCook on the completion of his self-imposed and heroic task,—not alone of five years' duration, but more nearly of twenty-five. The author started out five years ago to give to the world a work on spiders, and he has not only done this, but has also given us a model of patient, conscientious and unprejudiced labour that will stand as a monument to its author long after he has himself laid down his pen and passed to the unknown beyond; he has given to the observer in whatever department of natural science, a standard which he may well follow. Purity, both as to observation and conclusion, is stamped on every page. It is as if he had plunged his cup into the clear, cool mountain stream and handed us, direct, a refreshing draught of the crystal waters. He has evidently not studied spiders in his pulpit, but if there is any other place that he has visited, and whence he has not brought back some