

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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## FRANCIS MARION WEBSTER.

Canadian Entomologists had long regarded Mr. F. M. Webster as one of themselves, and the mutual warm friendship and sympathy grew with years. His sudden death in Columbus, Ohio, on January 2nd came, therefore, as a shock to those of us who enjoyed his friendship and benefited by his ripe experience. It was my good fortune to sit with him during the joint "smoker" of the Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America at Columbus, Ohio, after my address on the evening of December 29th, and he left me, laughing in his usual happy manner, to retire for the night. A few hours later pneumonia suddenly developed, and it ran a fatal course with astonishing rapidity.

Although he was born in 1849, in Lebanon, N. H., and had led a strenuous life, his mind was active, his zeal for the extension of his work was stimulating and his broad grasp of the details of his work was undiminished. He belonged to, and was one of, the most worthy of that splendid class of older workers in economic entomology to whom our science owes so much, both by their example and by the thorough character of much of the work they have bequeathed to us.

His first official position was that of Assistant State Entomologist of Illinois in 1882, and he brought with him the rich experience of a keen observer and a practical agriculturist, a mental equipment which always impressed itself upon the character of his subsequent work. From 1884 to 1892 he served as special field agent to the United States Department of Agriculture, and it was largely while working in this capacity that a large part of his best original work was effected. From 1886 to 1890 he was engaged on his well-known investigations in the valley of the lower Mississippi River on the buffalo gnats and their suppression. In 1888 he visited Australia in company with Koeble, who was seeking the natural enemies of the citrus fluted scale, and he also paid visits to Tasmania and New Zealand. His work on the