

unable to point out with positive certainty the precise location and nature of the organs of smell." Among the odorous substances which Mr. Lintner mentions are, kerosene oil, coal tar, naphthaline, carbolic acid, gas-lime and bisulphide of carbon. "These he says have been successfully used to change the natural odor of the plant with which the insect is familiar, and while the latter is neutralized, eggs will not be deposited on the plant, it will be preserved from such attack as effectually as if it were inclosed in glass." Mr. Lintner deserves our thanks for this contribution to economic entomology, and we trust that he will continue the experiments. It would be serviceable to Horticulture if some trials were first made on the insects infesting the fruit trees. By odorising the apple, pear, plum and kindred species during the season when their insect enemies are on the wing, some interesting and probably important discoveries may be made. We know that several of our injurious insects are not particular what kind of food they eat, and the checkmating of an insect enemy on one fruit producing tree may compel it to attack another of equal value, if its odor leads the insect to it. Instance *Tetrapolyphemus* which has been recorded by Mr. W. Brodie, of Toronto, to feed on forty-nine distinct plants. Can it be possible that plants belonging to the Orders: Tiliaceae, Rosaceae, Grossulaceae, Hamamelidaceae, Cupuliferæ, Juglandaceae, Betulaceae, and Salicaceae, have similar odors to attract this moth? That insects possess organs of smell have been repeatedly illustrated, the difficulty is to discover their location. It is indeed curious to notice the mode in which some insects select food-plants for their progeny. They appear to go directly to the plant, but whether they discover it from odor or the sense of sight remains a mystery. Our experience is that when we visit a swamp in summer, female mosquitoes pounce on us greedily, but if a mixture of coal-tar and olive oil is rubbed on our hands and face, we remain there without being

annoyed by insect parasites. They will certainly come and touch us, showing clearly that they do so by means of sight, but they leave when the odor of coal-tar affects them. Mosquitoes are diurnal and nocturnal in their flight, and can be very vigorous during both times, alighting on your face at night, is evidence that their eyes at all events, are suited for daylight and darkness. Why is it that black flies which are so severe in open air in daylight, will not touch a person within a house? I have seen the panes of glass in houses on the Island of Anticosti, covered with these insects, but they did not annoy the people while inside the house. The eyes of the black fly are apparently intended for light alone, as they retire on the approach of night.—C.

THE COW BIRD.

Molothrus ater, Bodd.

More than usual interest is attached to the history of this bird from the peculiar habit possessed by it of depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds, leaving to them the duty of incubation and brood rearing. Although few ornithologists have witnessed a cow bird in the act of depositing its eggs, it is well known that this is accomplished in the ordinary manner, during the owners absence from the nest. The foster-parents selected are usually birds of a small size, and it is interesting to observe the actions of the various species to whose care has been confided the apparently not agreeable task of bringing up the offspring of this vagabond bird. Some species appear to view the introduction of the strange egg with more complacency than others. Dr. Brewer mentions a case in which a Red-eyed Vireo hatched three of these eggs, without laying any of her own, and as many as five have been discovered in nests of the Black and White Creeper and Towhee Bunting. It is seldom, however, that more than one egg is deposited in a nest; especially those of such small birds as the Warblers or Chipping Sparrow, this is usually laid soon after the completion of the nest, sometimes before the owners are ready to lay, in which case the nest is often abandoned. The Summer War-