

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXII.

LONDON, MARCH, 1890.

No. 3.

POPULAR AND ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY.

THE MEDITERRANEAN FLOUR MOTH (*Ephestia kühniella*, ZELLER).

BY JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA.

During the summer of 1888 considerable anxiety was caused amongst North American millers by the alarming intelligence that the small Pyralid moth, bearing the name given above, had made its appearance in one of our large Canadian milling centres. There are two or three well-known insects which attack manufactured cereal products; but none of these, have ever occurred in injurious numbers in Canada. When, therefore, it was learned that a large warehouse, twenty-five feet wide, seventy-five feet deep and four stories high, had been completely over-run by the caterpillars of a new insect, which had infested all the flour and other manufactured foods therein contained, and had rendered much valuable machinery temporarily useless, it naturally caused much excitement lest the pest should spread to other mills; nor did this excitement abate when it was announced that the new comer was the same species as had been causing so much loss and trouble in English and European mills during the last ten years. The attack was so severe that it became necessary to close the mill where the outbreak occurred, and also to destroy a large quantity of goods. The insects in all stages were to be found in every part of the building. The cocoons were found adhering to the walls, joists, shelves and ceiling. Every crack or nail hole in the wood-work, machinery and furniture throughout the whole building was found to contain caterpillars or cocoons, and the moths were flying about in thousands. The attention of the Ontario Government was called to

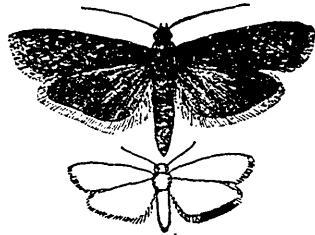


FIG. 2.