

Worm ; LeConte's Pine Worm ; the Colorado Potato Beetle ; the Army Worm ; the Wheat-head Army Worm ; the Rocky Mountain Locust ; the Hellgrammite Fly, and the Yucca Borer. The bulk of the report, sixty-seven pages in all, is occupied with details in reference to that terrible scourge of the West, the Rocky Mountain Locust, *Caloptenus spretus*, the other and less important subjects being much more briefly treated of. These reports contain an immense fund of valuable information, and have done much to popularize Entomology in America.

Harpalus caliginosus from Nature, by Franklin C. Hill ; two plates. We are indebted to Mr. Franklin C. Hill, of Princeton College, N. J., for copies of these excellent plates, recently published. They are beautifully finished and conveniently mounted on cards, 5 x 8, with all the organs and divisions both of the under and upper surface, distinctly named. They will prove a valuable help to beginners, and indeed to all who are not already familiar with the names of the different portions of the body of Coleopterous insects.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN INSTANCE OF RETARDED DEVELOPMENT.

On the 24th of September, 1875, I took a great many large caterpillars of a reddish buff color, with a dark dorsal stripe, feeding on willow. They soon went down to the soil and spun themselves up in hard brown cocoons, when I put them away for the winter. In the spring of 1876 I brought them to the heat, and after waiting some time and nothing appearing, I opened one of them and found the caterpillar alive and as fresh in color as when it first spun up. In this condition they continued until the fall, when I again put them away for the winter. In the spring of 1877 I again examined them, and found them fresh and with signs of life, but as the season advanced I opened some and found them dead, and the remainder having assumed a shrivelled look, I laid them aside as hopeless. On the 17th of June my attention was attracted by a scratching noise, which I found came from these cocoons, which were now reduced

in number to six. On lifting, I found one of them rattling and shaking with great vigor; I returned it to the box and waited three days, when nothing appearing, I broke it open and a fully developed fly walked out in a very feeble condition. Its length was 1 inch, expanse $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Head, thorax and legs black, antennæ and feet yellow; abdomen brown; a yellow spot between thorax and abdomen; wings light smoky brown.

J. A. MOFFAT.

Hamilton, June 26th, 1877.

MELITAEA PHAETON.

I have caught this summer over fifty specimens of *Melitaea phaeton*; they have been extremely common here. I saw a gentleman recently from Ottawa who told me that he could have caught them by the hundred in that neighborhood, they were so very abundant.

GEO. W. PEARSON, JR., Montreal.

HOW TO DESTROY CABINET PESTS.

There is nothing more annoying to the experienced, or more discouraging to the young collector, than to have his specimens destroyed by mites, by the *Anthrenus*, or by the larva of *Dermestes*. Against the ravages of these enemies there is no security. Paste and paper fail to exclude them; camphor is only a partial protector, and the only safeguard of our cabinets is constant vigilance, and the instant destruction of the offenders when observed.

For this purpose many methods have been suggested—saturation with turpentine, immersion in alcohol or benzine, exposure to a heat of 210 degrees in a drying closet or oven, &c.; but most of these ways are apt to injure, or even destroy the specimens, while the last is often ineffective. Having, however, found a certain and rapid method of dealing with these intruders, I desire, through your pages, to make it known to my brother naturalists.

Some two years ago, I had a magnificent female *Platysamia (Saturnia) cecropia*, measuring $6\frac{7}{8}$ inches across the wings when set out, which came out of a chrysalis in my breeding box. I succeeded in killing and stretching it without damage, and when dry, transferred it to my interim box, which hung against the wall. In about a fortnight I was annoyed to

see its antennæ cut off, the head and thorax denuded of most of their down, and some large holes made in the abdomen. After some consideration, I placed a gallipot, containing about 25 grains of cyanide of potassa roughly bruised, with a very little water, in the bottom of the case. I then introduced six drops of sulphuric acid, and let down the glass. In less than a minute I had the satisfaction of seeing a fine, stout *Dermestes* larva writhing in the death agony on the bottom of the box. Since that time I have tried the same several times, and always with the same success. It is equally applicable to the extermination of moths, &c., in stuffed birds and quadrupeds, as no animate being can inhale this gas and live.

JAMES T. BELL, Belleville, Ont.

[NOTE.—Great caution would be necessary in using this remedy, not to inhale any of the highly poisonous gas which by the use of the ingredients named would be rapidly generated.—ED. C. E.]

In October, 1875, I found *Meloe angusticollis* Say in large numbers in our potato fields, but could not find any feeding on the vines. About 25 or more found their way into our gardens, and almost completely devoured a few plants of *Anemone japonica* (*Ranunculaceæ*). We have a large collection of annual and perennial plants, but the *Meloes* could find nothing to suit their tastes but these *Anemones*. We had no *Ranunculus acris* on our grounds.

Yours respectfully,

CHAS. D. ZIMMERMAN, Buffalo, N. Y.

LIMENITIS PROSERPINA.

Limenitis proserpina has been taken in this locality now and again, but rarely more than one in a season, and always in connection with *arthemis*.

J. A. MOFFAT, Hamilton, Ont.

CAPTURES AT SUGAR.

I have taken at sugar at Morristown, N. J., *Ellibia versicolor*, *Everyx choerilus* and *E. myron*.

GEO. W. PECK, New York.

AGROTIS FENNICA WANTED.

I very much want four or six good specimens of *Agrotis fennica*. I believe the insect, though certainly not common, is by no means a rarity in some localities in Canada, but I am at a loss to whom to address myself.

W. T. DOBREE, Hull, England.