

cessfully in capturing the insects; that the simplest form, a flat piece of sheet-iron, was most satisfactory; that one application resulted in adding thirty-four per cent to the crop of hay on a plot experimented on, and at one experiment leaf-hoppers were captured at the rate of 376,000 per acre. Kerosene emulsion for plant lice was used once with poor success, but later an application of a good emulsion by thorough methods resulted in complete success. Grasshoppers are mentioned as troublesome this season, and reports of Rocky Mountain grasshoppers are referred to. No present damage to Iowa is apprehended from this latter species, and methods of controlling the common native species, when numerous, are discussed. The flavescent clover weevil is found abundant at Ames. Its distribution is referred to and its method of work described. Information regarding its occurrence in other parts of the State is requested. The wheat-bulb worm has occurred in moderate numbers, but abundant parasites have been found to attack it at Ames, and its serious multiplication is not considered probable.

—M. E. Heckel of Marseilles has recently described an interesting case of mimicry which may be frequently seen in the south of France. The mimic, *Nature* states, is a spider, *Thomisus onustus*, which is often found in the flowers of *Convolvulus arvensis*, where it hides itself for the purpose of snaring two Diptera, *Nomioides minutissimus* and *Melithreptus origani*, on which it feeds. *Convolvulus* is abundant, and three principal color variations are met with: there is a white form, a pink one with deep pink spots, and

a light pink form with a slight greenishness on the external wall of the corolla. Each of these forms is particularly visited by one of three varieties of *Thomisus*. The variety which visits the greenish form has a green hue, and keeps on the greener part of the corolla; that which lives in the white form is white, with a faint blue cross on the abdomen, and some blue at the end of the legs; the variety which lives in the pink form is pink itself on the prominent parts of the abdomen and legs. If the animal happens to live on *Dahlia versicolor* the pink turns to red, and if it lives in a yellow flower — *Antirrhinum majus*, for instance — it becomes yellow. At first Professor Heckel supposed the three varieties of *Thomisus* to be permanent, but he discovered accidentally that any one of these peculiarly colored spiders, when transferred to a differently colored flower, assumes the hue of the latter in the course of a few days; and when the pink, white, green, and yellow varieties are confined together in a box, they all become nearly white.

—During the nesting season the male ostrich seems to be anything but an agreeable creature. In a paper lately read before the Royal Society of Tasmania (*Nature*, Sept. 10), Mr. James Andrew says that at that period the bird is most pugnacious, and may only be approached in safety with great precaution. He resents the intrusion of any visitors on his domain, and proves a most formidable opponent. His mode of attack is by a series of kicks. The leg is thrown forwards and outwards, until the foot, armed with a most formidable nail, is high in the air; it is then brought

Publications received at Editor's Office,
Sept. 16-22.

- BAILEY, L. H. *Annals of Horticulture in North America for the Year 1890*. New York, Rural Publ. Co. 312 p. 8°. \$1.
- DAVIS, G. G. *Anales de la Oficina Meteorologica Argentina*. Tomo VIII. Climas de Chacra de Matanzas, Corrientes, Catamarca, Mailin, y Cochinoce. Buenos Ayres, Coni é Hijos. 569 p. 8°.
- DAVIS, J. Woodbridge. *Theoretical Astronomy: Dynamics of the Sun*. (Woodbridge School Essays, No. 1.) New York, Woodbridge School. 97 p. 4°.
- EMTAGE, W. T. A. *An Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Electricity and Magnetism*. (Clarendon Press Series.) New York, Macmillan. 228 p. 12°. \$1.90.
- OCCULTISM, the Key of Nature. Vol. I. No. 1. Boston. 16 p. 4°.
- RICHTER, V. von. *Chemistry of the Carbon Compounds; or, Organic Chemistry*. 2d ed. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 1040 p. 8°. \$3.50.
- WEISMANN, A. *Essays upon Heredity and Kindred Problems*. Vol. I. 2d ed. New York, Macmillan. 471 p. 8°. \$2.

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down with terrific force, serious enough to the unhappy human being or animal struck with the flat of the foot, but much worse if the victim be caught and ripped by the toe. Instances are known of men being killed outright by a single kick, and Mr. Andrew remembers, whilst on a visit in the neighborhood, that on a farm near Graaff Reinet a horse's back was broken by one such blow aimed at its rider. If attacked, a man should never seek safety in flight; a few yards and the bird is within striking distance, and the worst consequences may result. The alternative is to lie flat on the ground, and submit with as much resignation as possible to the inevitable and severe pummeling which it may be expected will be repeated at intervals until a means of escape presents itself, or the bird affords an opportunity of being caught by the neck, which, if tightly held and kept down, prevents much further mischief. Under such circumstances, however, Mr. Andrew has known a bird, with a badly-calculated kick, strike the back of its own head, scattering the brains—"a serious loss of valuable property to the farmer."

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