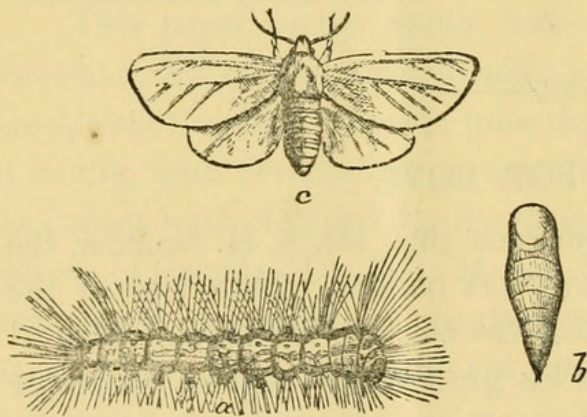


mind for careful and accurate methods of thought and observation ; but also as inducing healthy exercise and out-door occupation, do everything to encourage scholars to investigate Nature. In Great Britain, in France, in Germany, there are good, cheap, illustrated works upon insects. Many an Entomologist who has afterwards risen to eminence owes his distinction to having had his attention drawn to the study of insects either by a schoolfellow or from having been presented with one of these books. We have absolutely no work upon the many beautiful Butterflies which frequent our Canadian woods, prairies and mountains. Such a volume for Canada and the Northern States as "Coleman's British Butterflies" would be an inestimable boon to many—not only the young, who would be charmed with the many treasures which they would find they had everywhere around them ; but also to fathers and mothers and aunts and uncles who are so often at a loss to find suitable presents for children. Mr. Scudder's name alone is a guarantee that the work will be well done.

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THE FALL WEB-WORM (*Hyphantria cunea*.)

By J. Fletcher.



In the above figure are shown the caterpillar, chrysalis and perfect insect of the Fall Web-Worm, one of the greatest pests to our shade and fruit trees. The moth, which in the northern form, as it occurs at Ottawa, is pure white with gray antennæ or feelers; its

front thighs are yellow and the feet dark. Further to the south the moths are frequently ornamented with many black spots, but I have never seen this form in Canada. At the present time, many of our shade trees are rendered unsightly by the nests of the social caterpillars of this insect and this note is inserted to request the members of the O. F. N. C. to set a good example by destroying them whenever they

observe the nests, and requesting others to do the same on every opportunity. As yet the webs are not very large, but they will be rapidly increased in size by the caterpillars as they grow to maturity, and unless removed will remain through the winter as a disfigurement to the trees and a disgrace to the community.

The eggs are laid upon the leaves of a great many different kinds of shrubs and trees in July, in clusters which are composed of a large number of greenish white eggs and are more or less hidden by a loose covering formed by the female of her own scales. The eggs soon hatch and the young caterpillars at once begin to spin a protecting web. They are pale yellow at first, with black heads and two rows of black spots along the body, and are covered with slender hairs. When small they eat only the upper surface of the leaves, skeletonizing them. They grow rapidly and enlarge the web as they develop. They remain almost entirely in their tent and will destroy the foliage of a large-sized branch in a short time. When full-grown they are about an inch in length and vary greatly in their markings. Some specimens are pale yellowish, whilst others are of a deep gray. The head is black and there is a broad dark stripe down the back. Along each side is a yellow spotted stripe. The body is covered with long soft hairs which vary in colour, and which arise from a number of small black or orange tubercles. When almost full-grown they give up their social habits and scatter in all directions to continue their depredations. They pass the winter in the chrysalis state within slight cocoons which they spin either amongst fallen leaves, in crevices of bark, or a short distance beneath the surface of the soil, where they remain until the following summer.

The webs from the very first are conspicuous objects and from the social habits of the caterpillars a whole colony is easily destroyed by cutting off the nest and trampling it under foot. To take this small trouble in order to protect our shade trees from one of their worst enemies is what I am asking our members to do.

—————:O:—————

A. A. A. S.

The next Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Associated Societies, will be held this year at Rochester, N.Y., beginning on August 15th and ending about August 24th. The proximity of Rochester should induce many of our members to take this opportunity of meeting the numerous men of note who always attend the A. A. A. S. meetings.



Fletcher, James. 1892. "The Fall Web-Worm (*Hyphantria cunea*).*" The Ottawa naturalist* 6(4), 70–71.

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