Descending now into a meadow, through which flows a sluggish brook, I fold up the beating-net and screw the sweeping-net into its handle, which hitherto has been only used to tap the branches with. The stream is bordered with clumps of alders, willows, etc., between which grow luxuriantly ferns and many herbaceous plants, with sedges and various grasses. Magnificent fritillaries are hovering about the blossoms of the milkweed, which are just beginning to open, while numbers of *Neonympha Boisduvalli* flit about with a peculiar jerky flight. Beetles do not appear to be as common as they sometimes are here, but I take several specimens of *Scirtes orbiculatus*, three species of fireflies and several allied beetles, with several species belonging to the other families, as Coccinellidæ, etc. Three or four kinds of sawfly larvæ are found but none of the perfect insects are seen. Two, or perhaps three, species of Chrysops are unpleasantly numerous, but are not nearly so aggressive as I find them in a pine wood, through which I return. This wood rings with the shrill music of the cicada and is enlivened by many butterflies in the more open portions, where other trees and plants occur. My captures during the ramble are perhaps fifty species of beetles and a few Hymenoptera. This number is less than half of what I frequently obtain, but the value of collecting depends not so much upon the number of species taken, as upon the observations which are made upon the habits of the various species.

July 3rd, 1884.

OBITUARY.

It is with a feeling of sadness that we record the death of our esteemed friend and companion, Prof. Francis Gregory Sanborn, which occurred at the residence of a friend in Providence, June 5, 1884, by an overdose of chloral, taken to allay a nervous affection, from which he was a sufferer. He was born in Andover, Mass., Jan. 18, 1838. His father, Dr. Eastman Sanborn, was born in Sanbornton, N. H., and settled as surgeon dentist in Andover.

Francis was of slender health from infancy. From a diary kept by his mother it appears that when he was two weeks old his life was despaired of for many days. He was born a naturalist, and very early developed

powers of close observation, and patient study—especially in the branch of entomology—and the common forms of life about us.

Graduating from Phillips Academy in 1858, especially did he excel in Greek and Latin—receiving his instruction directly from the Principal, Mr. Taylor—which became so useful to him in pursuing his favorite branches of Entomology and Conchology, in which he became an acknowledged expert.

He went to the State House in Boston in October, 1858, when he was employed in the State Cabinet until 1865, when he was engaged by the Boston Society of Natural History in the departments of Entomology and Ornithology, receiving the appointment as regular assistant in 1867, which position he held until 1872. In 1872 he accepted a position as teacher of Entomology and Microscopy in the Bussy Institute, connected with Harvard College. During the spring and summer of 1874 he was an assistant in the Geological Survey of Kentucky, under Prof. Shaler. With other gentlemen of the survey, he visited about fifty caves, including Mammoth Cave, chiefly with a view to ascertain the variations in temperature, and the present and extinct forms of animal life. In 1875 he was employed by the Smithsonian Institution in arranging the coleoptera of North America for the Centennial Exhibition. This collection was shown in twenty-four large cases in the Government Building. Since then he has been engaged in museum work, arranging and labelling private cabinets, giving lectures before schools and clubs, on Entomology chiefly. Until 1882 he was employed as regular custodian in the Museum of the Worcester Natural History Society, which office he held at the time of his death. His work in museums, on private cabinets, and in arranging biological collections, giving on clear and distinct labels the history of the objects, making them plain and intelligible to the people, was one of the many things in which Mr. Sanborn excelled. He studied the common things of life—those which immediately surround us—and there was rarely anything in animal or vegetable life as to which he could not gratify an intelligent curiosity, and give a correct answer, and he delighted to do so. From a notice of his death in the Worcester Spy, we quote the following :

" He was ingenious, full of resources, remarkably ready and happy in communicating information to all inquirers ; of a cheerful, buoyant and uncomplaining temper, with the simplest tastes and habits ; he was a diligent student, an agreeable and unobtrusive companion. His death seems sudden and untimely, but it is certain that he himself, unworldly as

he was, would have regarded its approach with equanimity. The Natural History Society has lost in Prof. Sanborn its most important and valued helper. His presence will long be sadly missed by visitors to the museum, and his successor, whoever he may be, will not surpass the genial and helpful custodian, who, in his own quiet and unostentatious way, has done such solid and lasting service for the cause of popular science."

A careful and painstaking student, he contributed to science services of which others reaped the benefits. Dr. Harris' work, "Insects Injurious to Vegetation," owes much of its value to the patient labors of Professor Sanborn.

He was corresponding member of several entomological societies in the States, and Life Member of the Boston Society of Natural History.

T. A. D.,
Worcester, Mass.

ON VALGUS CANALICULATUS AND SQUAMIGER: ELLESCHUS BIPUNCTATUS, XYLORYCTES SATYRUS.

BY JOHN HAMILTON, M. D., ALLEGHENY, PA.

Valgus canaliculatus Fab. and *V. squamiger* Beauv., have, so far as I am aware, escaped the notice of American writers on Coleeptera, except that it is mentioned in the U. S. Agricultural Report for 1868, p. 90, that *V. squamiger* was found in great numbers in January, in Maryland, under the bark and in the rotten wood of a pine stump; and that Fitch gave some account of it, under the name *seticollis*, in his report for 1857, p. 695, which I have not seen.*

* Fitch's description is as follows :—

"BRISTLY-NECKED VALGUS, *Valgus seticollis* Beauv.—Beneath the bark around the crown of the roots of ant-eaten pine stumps, feeding upon the wood, fleshy, white, thick cylindrical grubs, resembling small larvæ of the May beetle, having three pairs of legs anteriorly and the body curved into an arch, its hind part being bent more or less inward under the breast, divided by impressed transverse sutures into twelve rings; the pupæ and perfect insects also occurring in the same situations; the latter short thick beetles about 0.28 long, the males chestnut brown, beneath black, the females dull black, both sexes with chestnut colored feet, and covered more or less with little ash gray scales, flattened upon their backs, their wing covers much shorter than the abdomen and