

The Canadian Entomologist.

Vol. XLVIII.

LONDON, MARCH, 1916

No. 3

FRANCIS MARION WEBSTER.

Canadian Entomologists had long regarded Mr. F. M. Webster as one of themselves, and the mutual warm friendship and sympathy grew with years. His sudden death in Columbus, Ohio, on January 2nd came, therefore, as a shock to those of us who enjoyed his friendship and benefited by his ripe experience. It was my good fortune to sit with him during the joint "smoker" of the Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America at Columbus, Ohio, after my address on the evening of December 29th, and he left me, laughing in his usual happy manner, to retire for the night. A few hours later pneumonia suddenly developed, and it ran a fatal course with astonishing rapidity.

Although he was born in 1849, in Lebanon, N. H., and had led a strenuous life, his mind was active, his zeal for the extension of his work was stimulating and his broad grasp of the details of his work was undiminished. He belonged to, and was one of, the most worthy of that splendid class of older workers in economic entomology to whom our science owes so much, both by their example and by the thorough character of much of the work they have bequeathed to us.

His first official position was that of Assistant State Entomologist of Illinois in 1882, and he brought with him the rich experience of a keen observer and a practical agriculturist, a mental equipment which always impressed itself upon the character of his subsequent work. From 1884 to 1892 he served as special field agent to the United States Department of Agriculture, and it was largely while working in this capacity that a large part of his best original work was effected. From 1886 to 1890 he was engaged on his well-known investigations in the valley of the lower Mississippi River on the buffalo gnats and their suppression. In 1888 he visited Australia in company with Koeble, who was seeking the natural enemies of the citrus fluted scale, and he also paid visits to Tasmania and New Zealand. His work on the

Hessian Fly and other insects affecting field crops, which established so securely his reputation as an investigator and as an authority on this group of insect pests, was carried out mainly during the years 1891 to 1902, when he held the position of Entomologist to the Ohio State Experiment Station. During 1903-04 he was attached to the Biological Survey of Illinois.

After so many years of fruitful preparation he went to Washington and joined the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1904, and two years later the section of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations was created and he was given charge of that important section of the activities of the Bureau. From a single assistant his staff increased to more than fifty trained men, and the last appropriation for his work (1915-16) amounted to \$114,500, figures that indicate the zeal with which he devoted himself to his work. He was one of the first to recognise the importance of the establishment of field stations, and at the time of his death he was directing the work of about eighteen such stations in the different States of the Union.

His connection with Canadian entomology was a long and valuable one. The October number of THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST of 1888 contained his first contribution—a very characteristic letter—his last appeared a week or two before his death. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of Ontario in 1899, and his connection with the Society was one of which he always spoke with pride and genuine comradeship, for it meant an additional bond with some of his best friends. We shall always remember the pleasure of his company and the practical address he gave at the Jubilee Meeting of our Society in 1912, his last visit to Canada. In our work we shall miss his counsel and co-operation, but we shall be stimulated by his example, and he will always be remembered as one who was ever ready to assist and whom we counted it as a privilege to number among ourselves.

C. GORDON HEWITT.

POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY.

ERADICATION OF THE BEDBUG BY SUPERHEATING.

BY W. A. ROSS, FIELD OFFICER, DOMINION ENTOMOLOGICAL
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Our experience with superheating as an effective method of controlling the Mediterranean Flour Moth (*Ephestia kuehniella*)

March, 1916