A NEW CLOTHES BEETLE.

BY PROF. A. J. COOK, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, MICHIGAN.

One of the most interesting studies of the scientific entomologist—more interesting because of its economic importance—relates to variation of habits of insects, consequent upon variation in their environment. The carpet beetle, *Anthrenus scrophulariæ* Linn., feeds on flowers in its native Europe. In the new atmosphere of America, it feeds and thrives upon carpets, shawls and other woollen goods. The apple maggot, *Trypeta pomonella*, feeds upon our wild haw and other wild fruits. Civilization exterminates its old-time aliment; and it betakes itself to our apples, cherries and plums. The curculio, apple-tree borers, bark lice, etc., are other illustrations of the same truth.

In the past season I have discovered another illustration in the *Lasioderma serricorne* Fab. This insect belongs to the family *Ptinidae*, a small family of very small insects. Very few of the insects of this family are noxious; the two best known of which are, the apple-tree twig borer, *Amphicerus bicaudatus* Say., which bores in the mature state in the twigs of the apple, and *Linoxylon basilaris* Say, which attacks the hickory and grape. The insect in question, *Lasioderma serricorne* Fab., has been found to attack plush furniture. The larvæ, in this case, do the mischief; they perforate the plush, making it like a sieve. I know of several pieces of upholstered furniture utterly ruined by these minute larvæ.

The beetle is light-brown in color. There is little variation in the color, except that the eyes and tips of the elytra are black. The wing-covers appear a little lighter, because of a covering of light hairs, which are more dense on the elytra than on the thorax and head. The thorax bends down, so that, as we look from above, we can not see the head. The serrate antennæ, which give its name to the beetle, are also bent under the head, so as to rarely show. The beetle is very small, hardly more than 2 m.m. long. The elytra are non-striated. The first two joints of the antennæ are small. They then increase to the sixth, and then decrease to the end. The tenth, or last joint, is rounded. The grubs are short, curled and hairy. They are two m.m. long and one thick. The color is white, and the hairs nearly white. These latter have a slightly yellowish tinge. The six thoracic legs are tipped with black. The upper part of the head shows four yellowish-brown lines. The upper ones are

narrowest, while the lateral ones are abbreviated behind. The front of the head is brown, while the jaws and other mouth parts are nearly black.

Like all insects, these beetles, both as larvæ and imago, are very susceptible to gasoline or bi-sulphide of carbon. Both of these, used in large quantities, were quickly fatal to the insects. Like the carpet beetle, they infest upholstered furniture between the folds, especially where the back joins the seat. It is easy to drench such parts of a sofa or chair with gasoline and destroy the larvæ of either moth or beetle.

Nearly every year brings examples of such change of habits as described above. Such incursions, present and prospective, emphasize the importance of thoroughly-trained entomologists in every state of our country.

THE NOCTUIDÆ OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

(*Third Paper.*)

BY A. R. GROTE, A. M., BREMEN, GERMANY.

Tribe *Agrotini*.

The tibiæ are usually all spinose, the eyes naked, the body untufted, the form normal, the male antennæ of various structure, pectinated, brush-like, simple. The European species are referred by Lederer all to one genus, *Agrotis* of Hübner. Nevertheless, I think the yellow-winged forms may well be separated under *Hiria* and *Tryphana*. Of these yellow-winged forms, with flattened abdomen, we have only one *T. Chardinyi*, from Anticosti and Maine, considered identical with the Siberian species of the same name, described originally by Boisduval under *Anarta*. For the structure of *Agrotis*, I refer the student to a paper of mine on the genus, CAN. ENT., XV., 51. This genus seems of general distribution, although, perhaps, most numerous represented by species in North America. To this tribe, I would refer certain American genera, with few species, which seem peculiar. These are: *Carneades*, which differs by a frontal tubercle; *Richia*, which resembles *Ammoconia* in having a thoracic rigid tuft, but has simple antennæ; *Adita*, with a claw on front tibiæ; *Agrotiphila*, with narrowed eyes; *Anytus*, with lashes; the peculiar genus *Ufeus*, and, finally, *Copablepharon*, which has some