

**MOTH TRAP FAKE.**

Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo. The Moth Trap. By J. C. Stedman. This is a bulletin giving the experiences of entomologists in all parts of the country concerning a lantern moth trap that has been advertised extensively the past season as a means for catching the codling moth and other injurious insects. Prof. Stedman has gathered here the opinions and experiences of those who have tried these traps, and they uniformly condemn it as more likely to catch a majority of harmless and beneficial insects than to get the ones it is advertised to catch. It is strange, as Prof. Stedman says, that some orchardists claim to catch the codling moth with these lanterns while the entomologists uniformly fail to get any. The secret of the whole matter lies in the fact that the orchardists think they have the codling moth when they really have none, since a great many harmless, but similar looking moths are caught. The conclusion arrived at is that the traps are not only useless, but positively detrimental. The traps will not catch, to any extent, the codling moth, the potato beetle, plum curculio, peach borer, flat and round headed apple tree borer, tomato worm moth, squash bugs, canker worm moth, cabbage butterflies, bud worm, moth, grape vine moth, currant moth, slugs or strawberry root borer. Failing to catch these, the traps do catch immense numbers of ichneumon flies, which are among the most beneficial of insects, and many others that are harmless or helpful. Miss Murtfeldt, one of the best entomologists reports on insects caught by the traps that there were no codling moths, but many that uninitiated people would take of them, and there were no curculios. F. H. Speakman, of Neosho, Mo., reports that he caught a great multitude of insects but not a codling moth nor a curculio, and he suggests that if the traps would catch the insects they claim for it, how is it to supersede spraying for the fungus diseases that infest the orchards. Prof. Felt, state entomologist of New York, says that the trap lanterns cannot be recommended, and advises the farmers to go slow in buying them. Prof. Garman, of Kentucky, says that he tested the trap advertised for the codling moth, but did not catch one of them nor any of the well known insect pests. Prof. Slingerland, of Cornell, who has given more attention to the codling moth than anyone else, says that they are not attracted by light, as he has repeatedly demonstrated. Prof. Popenoe, of the Kansas Station, says the traps are totally useless. Prof. J. Troop says that he had one of these traps going in the orchard from the time the blossoms fell, but failed to catch a single codling moth or a curculio. Prof. Smith, entomologist of the New Jersey station, says of the New Jersey man that he has been told time and again, and that if he will only learn from experience, the best thing will be for him to get the experience and get over with it. Prof. Quaintance, of Georgia (now of Maryland), says that Mr. Haseltine misrepresented him in his advertisement, and he does not endorse the traps. Prof. F. M. Webster, of the Ohio station says: "I have known all along that the thing is a fraud, and have thrown all letters regarding it into the waste basket."

Prof. E. Dwight Sanderson, of the Delaware station, says that he turned codling moths loose near the trap and they failed to get into it. Prof Forbes, state entomologist of Illinois, says: "I have received several inquiries concerning the Haseltine moth catcher, accompanied by their ludicrously ignorant circular." Prof. Slingerland of Cornell, says: "Most of the claims made for this moth catcher or trap in the advertising circulars are preposterous, and the use of such terms as stinging fly, borer fly and others, shows that the inventor is not familiar with the insects which infest orchards and other crops." Dr. L. O. Howard, entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., says: "I have no methods—Haseltine's and all the rest—are failures as remedies for codling moths." The writer of this, in common with all other station officers, has been asked time and again by correspondents in regard to the trap lanterns for insects. We told our friends last season that they were worse than useless, and now we are glad to publish this report from Missouri as a warning to the readers of The Ranch against the campaign for the coming season of those interested in selling these things. As we have said elsewhere wetested the traps twelve or thirteen years ago and found they took more friends than foes. Let them alone.

The following interesting paragraph is from the Weekly Tulare (C-I) Register:

"Thomas Thompson, who has a little place in the outskirts of Tulare, had a pear orchard of thirty-five trees, or more, that was early attacked with the dreaded blight. Mr. Thompson did not know what to do to defend his trees, but, unlike many others, he thought that he must do something, and not surrender without striking a blow; so he went into the orchard and cut out the infected limbs as soon as he detected the infection, cutting away below the blight, and squirting a bit of coal oil from a common oiler on the freshly-cut stub of limb. The result is that he has the best promise of a crop in the neighborhood, and not a sign of the blight at this time is to be seen anywhere in the orchard."

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