flies, is on the border of woods, open glades, meadow lands, etc.

Specimens should not be allowed to remain over night unpinned. The large specimens may be pinned through the thorax, preferably with japanned iron pins. They should be placed on the pin only low enough so that the head may be grasped with the thumb and forefinger without danger to the specimen. *The wings should never be spread.* Spreading not only renders the specimens more difficult to study, but it spoils the natural appearance of the insects, and is a positive injury to them for the cabinet. All that is necessary is to push aside the wings so that they will not conceal the abdomen. Minute specimens should be pinned with fine iron wire from the underside, and then pinned upon small strips of thin cork, the upper surface of which

has been covered with white paper, and through the other end of which a pin is thrust. Small specimens should never be glued to bits of card-board, as is commonly done with coleoptera. Only one specimen should be placed on the piece of cork.

The greatest enemy to dipterological collections is dust: insects can be guarded against, but it is difficult to exclude dust, unless tight cases are used. Dampness and mildew do often much mischief.

A good dipterological specimen must be unrubbed, unmoistened, not dusty nor greasy, and with the wings unspread. It is quite as easy to collect *good* specimens as poor ones and much more satisfactory.

[For other articles on the collection and preservation of diptera, see Rec., 157, 2335, 3396, 3404 and 3405.]

MUSEUM PESTS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTOMOLOGIST.—*Trogoderma tarsale* has heretofore been viewed with unmixed hatred by entomologists, but for the last few days I have been showering blessings on the heads of a particular colony which had established itself in a pill-box containing some hundreds of specimens of a pteromalid reared from the cocoons of *Apanteles aletiae* Riley. It is true that nothing but fragments of the pteromalid remained after the *Trogoderma* had been at work for a year or more, but among these fragments

I have found a number which illustrate points in the external anatomy better than the most careful dissections. Certain points concerning the form and structure of the metanotum—always hard to study in the complete insect, and very difficult to dissect out, owing to a disagreeable tendency to break through the middle as readily as at a suture—are admirably exhibited by these accidental anatomical preparations. Truly it is an ill wind that blows no good.

L. O. Howard.

Washington, D. C., 25 Jan. 1884.