

Science Division

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Entomologic Field Station

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Old Forge N. Y. 17 Aug '05

My dear Miss Butler:

I received your letter promptly but am slow about replying. We have had our hands very full here of late, and I have not written letters for some time. We are closing up the work of the season here and Mr. Betten leaves for Ithaca on Monday. He is to be with me as instructor in Biology at Lake Forest next year, through Mr. Smith's kindness.

I was very glad to hear from you, but sorry to learn bad news of Mr. Bloom, whom we all like very much. The worst of this has been confirmed by a recent letter from Mr. Barry, who told, also, about Mr. Kemp's drowning.

We have had a pleasant successful summer here. Mrs. Needham will return to Lake Forest in about twelve days, with the family: I will go to Cambridge again to study Hagen's types until the time of college opening. So, I will miss seeing you in Lake Forest, again.

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When you cross the Sierras you will enter an almost entirely different fauna and flora from that found here. Of its insect life almost nothing is known but names. There are practically no observations recorded on habits, habits, life histories or for the members of the groups of insects in which I am chiefly interested - aquatic forms. There is a good chance to do something ^{chiefly} ~~at~~ ^{out doors}, to add to present knowledge, & to contribute the more interesting part of scientific knowledge. Why not work out some new life histories & write them up for publication - the early stages of nearly every dragonfly and of every stonefly, may fly, caddis fly or out there, are still unknown. This work might then eventuate if you found it interesting enough & stayed with it long enough in a popular account of these groups for that interesting region - a sort of hand book, for instance. But whether you reach this, or not you would find the other worth while and,

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believe, full of pleasure. I shall be very glad to identify for you such neuropteroid insects as you may care to send me, and can then point out better than now, opportunities for doing something new. They are readily available, you know, at merchandise stores, and the distance would be no obstacle to cooperation.

Lake Forest will look different & be different without your mother there, and we shall miss her very much. The college will miss her efficient services. We personally shall miss her kindness, & respect toward us during all her stay there. I am glad she is interested to have you do something worthy of the start you have made in science. It is gratifying to me that you began this work in my laboratory, where you have left a good record. I should perhaps a better situation at my command than you will find in Pasadena, and shall be glad to assist you further whenever I may. When you get there please write me and I will give you addresses of some entomologists there. Your Needham sends his love to both of you.

Yours very sincerely James S. Needham