

100.—WATER-BEETLES DESTROYING CARP.

By Prof. C. V. RILEY.

The large water insect which, according to the account of Mr. G. W. Peters, Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas,* attacks and kills young carp is evidently some species of *Cybister* or *Dytiscus* of the coleopterous family *Dytiscidae*. These carnivorous water-beetles occasionally abound in certain localities and are then a serious drawback to successful fish-culture. Moreover, since the German carp is a sluggish fish, it is much more exposed to the attacks of these beetles than most other kinds of fish. Unfortunately there is no way of poisoning the beetles and their still more voracious larvæ without at the same time destroying the fish, and all that can be done is to catch the beetles by means of a net shaped like a common butterfly-net and attached to the end of a bamboo pole. With a little practice many beetles may thus be captured within a short time, and by continuing this effort throughout the year the pest may be kept in check.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31, 1885.

101.—EDIBLE SHELL-FISH FOUND NEAR CUBA.

By ROBT. E. C. STEARNS.

[In reply to a letter of Mr. P. Benjamin, of Fulton Market, New York City, December 27, 1884.]

I have made inquiry and have learned only this, "That oysters of fair quality are rather abundant in the waters about Santiago, Cuba." The animal or soft portion of many of the conch shells, so-called, is eaten at various places by the negroes and others both in Florida and elsewhere in the Antillean-Caribbean region; but such gasteropod forms, while locally of some business importance, can hardly be so regarded in a broad commercial sense. Of the acephalans, or bivalves, the tellins and cockles of the cooler waters, at various places in the North Pacific and North Atlantic, are not only edible but often excellent in quality. There are species belonging to these groups within the region named, and of good merchantable size, but I am unable to specify any locality where they exist in such numbers as to afford a reasonable basis

*Mr. Peters wrote: "I received last fall 20 carp in good condition, and they have wintered well. Now as spring has come there is a big bug, shaped like a turtle, that is catching and killing my carp. There will seven or eight of these bugs attack a carp at once and stick to him till they eat him up alive. They can fly. They have two legs that they use to swim as a boy uses his arms. They are always in motion. Now I want to know how to get rid of them."