

killing the young larvæ before they enter the wood. *Anobium domesticum* is not really single-brooded, but as beetles usually emerge each early summer it is generally looked upon as such.

#### CONTROL MEASURES.

The control of wood-borer falls under two headings—(1) in house or building timber, and (2) in movable furniture. So far as wood-borer treatment in building-timber is concerned, this is yearly becoming of less importance. The majority of the old badly infested houses have been replaced by buildings in which white-pine is no longer used. It is only occasionally that renovation of badly infested buildings can be satisfactorily undertaken. The replacement of floorings and linings with red-pine or black-pine (matai) can, however, be done at times. When infested material is removed it is best done in late autumn to early spring, and the timber removed should be destroyed as soon as possible. The joists, &c., should be sprayed with a solution of arsenate of lead, using it at the rate of 1 lb. to 28 gallons of water.

In houses where only one or two boards are affected I always recommend the removal of the affected timber rather than to attempt any direct control. If, however, the cost of doing so is prohibitive, the affected wood should be sprayed in November, December, and January three times with a mixture of benzine and creosote, using five parts of benzine to one of creosote, or a mixture of benzine and naphthalene, dissolving about the equivalent of two moth-balls of naphthalene to every  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of benzine. Benzines of the type of "Powerin" will be found very effective, as they evaporate a little slower than do the lighter types. Spraying with arsenical compounds is often recommended, but the habit of the beetle laying its eggs in old tunnels often makes this method unsatisfactory. The adult beetles appear to feed very little, and any poisonous spray must kill the larvæ emerging from the eggs rather than the mature insect.

So far as furniture is concerned a word of warning against the purchase of second-hand furniture is necessary. In many cases such furniture will be the means of introducing borer. Care should always be taken to see that any such furniture is sound before introduced into a house. Borer in chairs, tables, pianos, and other articles of furniture should be systematically treated. Benzine and creosote squirted into each hole with a small pipette, and then the entrance stopped with a pellet of soap, will be found the best treatment to adopt. Where the wood is extremely badly affected it will be best to get rid of the article rather than try to control the borer. A very good method of dealing with the pest is to keep a sharp lookout for the appearance of any dust or frass being ejected from the holes. Whenever this occurs the larvæ are very easily reached with an application of benzine, and treatment directly such dust appears is often entirely satisfactory, even when only once applied.

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As a rule the early calf thrives the best. It is good practice to wean before the normal summer dry weather sets in, for then there is sufficient succulent herbage for the calves, and they do not receive a check.