

and bear rather large white tubercles. From them, collected on August 7th, adults emerged on the 20th. A species of *Epiurus*² (Ichneumoninæ) was obtained.

Erannis tilaria Harr.

In place of the usual fall incursion of the cotton moth, *Aletia argillacea* Hbn., this species has descended upon New York City and environs in great numbers this year. Seems to have voluntarily lent itself as an external decoration to every store window.

STATISTICAL METHOD AND ENTOMOLOGY

Of late there appears to be a tendency on the part of some entomologists, particularly economic ones, to utilize statistical method as a means of interpreting entomological data. There is no doubt concerning the validity of such a procedure and the tendency should be encouraged. However it should be remembered that where the premises are doubtful, the conclusion must be tentative and mathematical methods should not be used to give a false accuracy or an appearance of reconditeness to the work.

Professor Arne Fisher in his review (Jour. Amer. Statis. Assoc. vol. XIX, pp. 413-418, 1924) of the "The Calculus of Observations" by Whittaker and Robinson calls attention to the numerous workers in different branches of learning who are busily engaged in calculating coefficients of correlation between all sorts of phenomena. He is of the opinion that these are wasted efforts and states that "Jørgensen, in his great work on Frequency Surfaces and Correlation, has declared that the concept of correlation is as yet in a nebulous state and that it will take the diligent, meticulous and serious labors of many mathematicians to build even a firm basis for the theory." Fisher states that Whittaker's chapter on this subject confirms the view of Jørgensen and advises statisticians to wait until the mathematicians have reduced the concept to a more solid basis.

Ed.



1925. "Statistical Method and Entomology." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 33, 56–56.

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