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TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY,
ADDRESS YOUR REPLY TO THE
SIGNER OF THIS LETTER.

May 30, 1912.

Miss Hortense Butler,
Peterson, Iowa.

My dear Miss Butler :

I was very pleased to get your letter of the 23rd. I was glad to find that you are interested in the dragonfly handbook proposition. With your graduate study in Chicago University and in the University of Berlin, you would not have very rigid time requirement on a thesis for master's degree here. I will send to you circulars of our Graduate School and of the courses offered in the department to which I belong in the College of Agriculture. From these you may learn what is required of the recent graduate. The work you have done elsewhere will, of course, receive consideration. If you are intending to do your major work with me, I can assign you some research problem on the dragonflies, which you could do during the year by way of fulfilling the research requirement. Other things could be easily adjusted and the work thus done would do much toward equipping you for the work in which I want you to help me in making the handbook.

It is a series of small handbooks I am preparing, one on each group of fresh-water organisms. The first is nearly ready and is about mayflies; the one concerning which I am writing you is to be the second of the series. Several others are already planned and some of them are now in preparation. I would like to have you get your own work adjusted first, and then such ^{time} as could be spared from the demands for the completion of the requirement for your second degree might from the beginning be given to the handbook.

And later in the year, extending possibly into the succeeding summer vacation, we might work upon the handbook and finish it. I am thinking of a book of about 250 pages, neatly bound, and well illustrated from line drawings only, —no half-tones. You could help me tremendously with the preparation of both text and figures. I should purpose to taking ~~certain~~ ^a share of the labor, so it would be really a joint production. I hope you can see your way clear to coming on here and helping me out. I shall certainly do the best I can to make it worth your while.

Yours sincerely,

James E. Neetham

P.S. It is unlikely that the book proposed — that any of the series — will be profitable financially. I will pay for the publication. Should there ever be any profits from this book I will share them with you.

J.E.N.