

J. H. COMSTOCK,
Professor of Entomology, *Emeritus*
J. G. NEEDHAM,
Professor of Entomology.
WM. A. RILEY,
Professor of Insect Morphology and
Parasitology.
GLENN W. HERRICK,
Professor of Economic Entomology.
C. R. CROSBY,
Extension Professor of Entomology.
O. A. JOHANNSEN,
Professor of Biology.
J. CHESTER BRADLEY,
Assistant Professor of Systematic
Entomology.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, N. Y.

G. C. EMBODY,
Assistant Professor of Aquiculture.
ANNA BOTSFORD COMSTOCK,
Assistant Professor of Nature Study.
ROBERT MATHESON,
Assistant Professor of Economic
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ANNA C. STRYKE,
Instructor in Entomology.
J. T. LLOYD,
Instructor in Limnology
CARL A. ILG,
Assistant Curator

20 Dec 1914

My dear Miss Butler:

I am greatly
discouraged. I am unable to
get the writing done as planned.
I have stuck to it as persistently
as other matters would permit.
But, alas! I am not yet near the
end of my Life of Inland Waters.
I have tried to limit my time
at the office since our return to
Ithaca in September to Monday
and Thursday afternoons: but that
has not sufficed for a single
week. We have had to begin the
planning of a new building for

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the Department, and there have been demands
growing out of the change of administration
both in the College & in the Department.
I have steadfastly refused to make speeches,
and have tried persistently to write, but
have gotten on very slowly. It is now
clear that the book will not be done
by Feb 1st, much as I believed it would
be out of the way by Dec 1st 1914. There
is no adequate cause for this, of course,
but my own thick-headedness. To be sure
I am trying to make a book that will
be useful for some time to come, and
have found many uncertainties concerning
things about which I wanted to
write. As you know, I feel under
obligation to Lloyd to complete my
part of this as soon as possible, and
do not feel free to resume work on
~~this~~ ~~much~~ draggish book until this

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one is out of the way. I shall
begin sending ms to the printer in
January, but will look to continue
writing in the midst of other la-
bors next term. So, much as I
would like to have you working in
the laboratory again, and much as
all your friends here would be pleased,
I cannot promise to help, as I want
to do, on our common task any
time this winter. Two new men
have undertaken graduate research on
the odorates, Mr Rich of Maine, on the
gill chambers of the regurphs, and Mr Mung
of Colorado, on the Venation of the Gomphinae.

Both are just getting started. Lloyd is in
 California just now, where he went to see
 his mother, who underwent a serious operation
 there. She is getting better at last report
 and he will probably be back here soon.
 Miss Noyes and Miss Hughes are the only
~~girls~~ girls of last year left in the Mineral
 Laboratory, and no new ones are there as
 yet - tho there will be two new ones
 next term. Doubtless you hear from
 Miss Moore + Miss Lyon and Miss
 Curtis about as often as I do. I
 trust you have had no further bad
 news from Europe. Most all news
 is bad news, however, from that quarter.
 When your mother or both of you
 can come to see us again, we shall be happy
 to have you, and of course there will always
 be a place for you in my laboratory.

Yours sincerely
 James E. Medsger