

## To the members of the VIIIth International Congress of Entomology!

This is verily a proud day for the entomologists of Sweden. At last we are able to bid our colleagues and friends from all the world wellcome to our country.

But it is not without some trepidation and misgivings that we have asked you to come here. We are so few and, besides, we are greatly handicapped because, for obvious reasons, we are debared from using our own language. We must therefore crave your indulgence when we try in our halting way to speak the languages of the big nations.

But you must not for a moment harbour the thought that, because we are painfully aware of our shortcomings, this insight has damped our ardor to do everything within our power to make this congress a success.

The fact that you meet in a neutral country will, we venture to hope, make it easy to reestablish once more the formerly always so friendly relations between the entomologists of the world.

It is a well-known fact that the insects and quite especially the obnoxious insects respect neither ethnological nor geographical or political boundaries. They practice the philosophy of the old Romans: »Ubi bene, ibi patria.» Which means that the insects are always bent upon expanding their domains and when they, all too often with the assistance of us foolish human beings, arrive across the oceans to some country where the environmental conditions are favorable, then they stay and multiply in a manner they never displayed in their own country, because there they were controlled by their own parasites and predators which they managed to get rid of by crossing the ocean.

What was more natural then that the entomologists became international-minded and started cooperating for the purpose of forging veapons against the powerful foes of the human race.

A great international clearing service may be said to exist—and remarkably enough without any written code of agreement. In many parts of the world great hatcheries of beneficial insects exist and by means of the air-planes it is possible to have our helping friends amongst the insects shipped in refrigerators from one part of the globe to another, whenever necessary.

