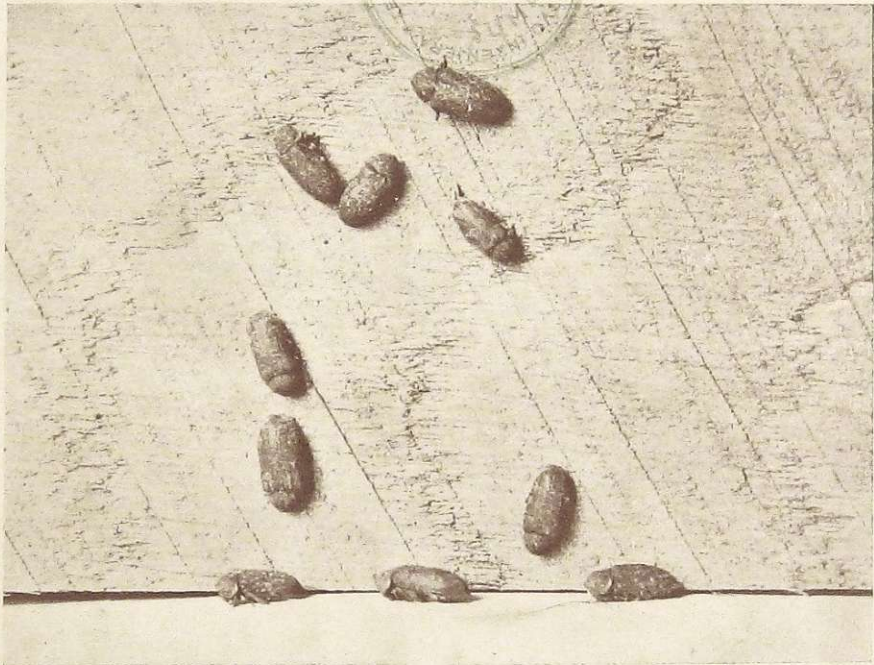# ENEMIES OF TIMBER

DRY ROT AND THE DEATH-WATCH BEETLE

IN WHICH THE ORIGIN AND LIFE HISTORY
OF THE TWO WORST ENEMIES OF TIMBER
ARE GIVEN, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE
DAMAGE THEY CAUSE, AND THE METHODS
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PRESERVATION OF TIMBER," " ROOF COVERINGS," ETC., ETC.

WITH 22 ILLUSTRATIONS

PREFACE

WHEN the tremendous quantity of timber that is used every year is compared with the length of time that is occupied by the tree in reaching full maturity, it would almost appear at first sight as if the whole world would be denuded of its forest trees in a very short space of time, and that, failing some means of increasing the supply or of providing an efficient substitute, the wheels of commerce and industry would inevitably come to a dead stop before many years have passed for the want of raw material on which to work. And this impression, serious as it may be, cannot altogether be dismissed as a figment of the imagination, when it is considered that the shortest space of time in which most trees will attain to dimensions when they can be dignified by the name of " timber " is not less than fifty years, and in some species more than twice as long. Add to the quantity that is normally used in industry the excessive amount that is wasted in one way or another every year, and the contingency is at once brought appreciably nearer. It is decidedly fortunate, from this point of view, that the bulk of the timber that is used for industrial purposes is of the soft-wooded coniferous varieties, as these trees attain maturity in a very much shorter space of time than the hard-