

THE CRICKET AS A THERMOMETER.

BY A. E. DOLBEAR.

An individual cricket chirps with no great regularity when by himself and the chirping is intermittent, especially in the day time. At night when great numbers are chirping the regularity is astonishing, for one may hear all the crickets in a field chirping synchronously, keeping time as if led by the wand of a conductor. When the numbers are so great, the resting spells of individuals are unnoticed but when the latter recommence they not only assume the same rate but the same beat as the rest in that field. The crickets in an adjoining field will have the same rate, that is, will make the same number of chirps per minute, but with a different beat as one may easily perceive by listening.