Most female crickets inject their eggs into the soil or into plant stems through long, slender ovipositors; the oviposition slashes of tree crickets often seriously damage berry canes and small twigs. Subterranean crickets lack long ovipositors, but place their eggs in underground chambers, sometimes along with plant materials upon which the newly hatched nymphs later feed. In northern latitudes most crickets mature in fall. They overwinter as eggs, which hatch into nymphs the following spring. A few burrowers overwinter as nymphs and mature in early summer. There are 6–12 nymphal molts, and the adults usually live 6–8 weeks.

Cricket racing is a popular pastime in the United States and several other countries. Crickets vary in size, and some are considered a delicacy. They are also popular in the pet trade and are often kept in terrariums. The most popular species for racing are the *Gryllus* species, which are known for their distinctive sound. CRICKET RACING has been a popular sport in the United States since the late 19th century, and it is still a popular activity today. The most famous cricket races are those held in New Orleans, where the crickets are released on a special race track and the winner is determined by the time it takes for the crickets to reach the finish line. The races are watched by thousands of spectators each year.

**References:**
- Thomas Moult (ed.), Bat and Ball (1935); Gerald Brough (ed.), The English Game (1948); The Book of Cricket Verse (1951); Alan Ross (ed.), The Cricketer's Companion (1960).
- Most distinctive among the 16 subfamilies of Gryllidae are: the tree crickets (Oecanthinae), delicate, graceful insects with transparent wings; the field and ground crickets (Gryllinae and Nemobroteidae), stout-bodied, brown and blackish species, which often excavate shallow burrows; the ant-loving crickets (Myrmecophila), minute, wingless, hump-backed insects living in ant nests; and the mole crickets (Gryllotalpinae), subterranean insects with greatly modified shoveling forelegs, cylindrical bodies, pointed heads and velvety coats of hair-like setae.

**Crickleade,** a market town in Wiltshire, Eng., is 8 mi. N.W. of Swindon by road. Pop. (1931) 1,881. Its situation at a crossing of the upper Thames, where it first becomes navigable, gave it an early importance; the Roman Ermine street from Silchester to Cirencester passes through the parish. In A.D. 69 the emperor Vespasian established a centre of reconnaissance there and coins of Vespasian, Flavius Honorius and Galerius Valerius Maximinus have been found. Alfred the Great made Cricklade a burgh in 871. Early in the 10th century it possessed a mint and examples of its coins date from Aethelred II to William II (Rufus). During the 12th century Matilda (q.v.), in flight from Stephen, was befriended by the townsfolk to whom her son, Henry II, granted a charter in 1155.

**Crief,** small burgh in Perthshire, Scot., and the capital of Strathearn, 18 mi. W.S.W. of Perth by road. Pop. (1961) 5,773. It occupies the southern slopes of a hill on the left bank of the Earn and is a tourist centre for the Perthshire highlands. Anciently called the Burgh of Regality of Drummond, its charter is said to date from 1218, and it was the seat of the courts of the earls of Strathearn till 1747 when heritable jurisdictions were abolished. A stone cross with runic carvings, believed to be of the 12th century, and an octagonal 17th-century market cross stand in High street, but the great cattle fair, for which Crief was once famous, was removed to Falkirk in 1770. It was probably in connection with this market that the "kind gallow of Crieff" acquired their notoriety, for they were mostly used for the execution of Highland cattle stealers; the timber is now in the tolbooth (1665), the present town hall. Among the principal buildings are Morrison's academy (1800), a school...