

The effect of a swarm of these creatures pumping away at the life fluid of the plant is the speedy withering of the leaf and the serious injury, if not destruction, of the whole plant.

As the bugs congregate together for the most part on the under side of the leaves, and their presence is indicated by the withered foliage, much may be done to diminish their numbers by the simple operation of hand-picking and crushing under foot or burning. It is well, also, to examine carefully the underside of the leaves of an affected plant, and destroy all eggs that may be found. This remedy is of easy application where only a few squash plants are grown in a garden. But if the cultivation takes place on a large scale, hand-picking of eggs and bugs becomes rather impracticable. The following remedy may then be employed: Take two quarts of powdered plaster of Paris, and add to it a tablespoonful of coal oil; sprinkle this mixture on the plants, especially on the stems and leaves nearest the root, where the attack is always made first. It is stated (Lintner's Report, ii. 29) that one application of this will generally answer for the season, but it should be repeated if the bugs return. The author of the remedy says: "I applied it this season on several thousand hills of melons, cucumbers, etc., after the bugs had commenced operations, and have not since had a vine destroyed. I have used it for several seasons with the same result. This is safer and cheaper than Paris green." The use of liquid manure and cultivation in a good rich soil is further recommended, for when the plants attain a vigorous growth, the loss of sap occasioned by these insects is not so much felt. As already indicated, they also attack the melon, cucumber and other allied plants.

THE TENT CATERPILLARS (*Clisiocampa Americana* and *Sylvatica*).

Everyone must be familiar with the webs of the Tent Caterpillars, and must have noticed the amount of mischief they do if left unchecked. They are so abundant and so widespread throughout the country that it seems advisable to mention again some of

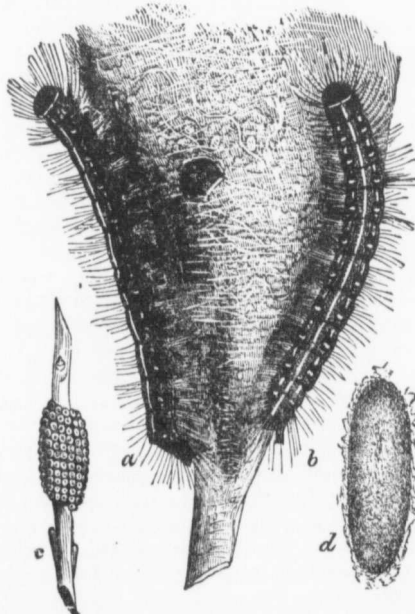


FIG. 42.

the most effective remedies for them. So few people take the trouble to interfere with the ravages of these pests that it is important to constantly draw public attention to them, even at the risk of seeming tiresome to the well-informed reader.