

lice. In some places this pest was so badly infested with parasitic insects that on one farm in Maryland the farmer gathered up twenty bushels of green worms when harvesting. These were parasites of the plant-lice. Each one of these worms would require many scores of plant-lice for a meal, so that I hope we need not have much fear of many of them being found next season. In Canada we have also several kinds of those parasites, and doubtless owing to their good work there was not so much damage as further south. Not only was this pest found in the open field, but it was very bad in gardens, and I think there were with us more complaints from growers of the flowering sweet peas than from farmers. Farmers are apt to take an outbreak like this as a calamity which has no remedy, but to grin and bear it, but gardeners have not to complain of such pests so often, and therefore there was more complaint heard from them.

TREATMENT FOR PLANT LICE.

Those who grow flowering plants and looked after them very carefully were very much troubled and were sending frequently for remedies. The ordinary remedies for plant-lice we found to be perfectly effective for these, and the simplest remedy for plant-lice is whale-oil soap, now a well known remedy for this class of insects, in the proportion of one pound in six gallons of water. This remedy is rather expensive, and except for garden or orchard work is not perhaps a practical remedy. I should have mentioned, when you asked if there were any practical remedy for San José scale, that the preparations known as whale-oil soaps are merely fish oil soaps made with potash after a definite formula. Those soaps made by W. H. Owen, of Catawba Island, and the J. B. Good Company, of Philadelphia, are good soaps, and the use of these if done as recommended becomes a practical remedy. The proper quantity to use is two pounds in one gallon of water. When bought in large quantities these soaps are not very expensive—about four cents a pound, but even eight cents in one gallon of water will be thought by many to be a very expensive remedy when it has to be applied to large trees. If the soap has been properly made with potash, it is not too thick for spraying when diluted, and can be applied with a spraying pump. It is also claimed to be beneficial to the trees. Trees which have been sprayed as a general experience showing greater vigour. This is due to the amount of potash which they receive in the soap. The insect can be almost entirely eradicated with this spray. If two or three applications are made the trees will be fairly clean of scales and much improved in appearance.

An insect which has not yet given us much trouble in Canada, but which fruit-growers in the province of Quebec must expect to be troubled with before long, is the apple maggot, which is very prevalent in the states of Vermont and Maine. It is a worse pest for the apple-grower than the codling moth, the caterpillar of which attacks the apple chiefly at the core and then only eats its way out, leaving much of the apple uninjured. The Apple Maggot is the maggot of a fly which perforates the apple and pushes her eggs inside the flesh of the apple. From these eggs maggots hatch soon after, and eat their way through the apple in every direction, spoiling it utterly. There is no remedy which we can apply as a spray to reach this insect. The remedy which has given the best results is collecting the infested fruit after it falls to the ground and destroying it with the maggots inside it, so that they do not mature to destroy the crop of the next year. The most profitable method of destroying this fruit is to keep sheep or pigs in the orchard to eat up all windfalls as soon as they fall, and in seasons when the crop is small this remedy is very effective. When the apples are not abundant the animals all run to the spot as soon as an apple falls and pick it up immediately. The collecting by hand and destroying it in some way sounds easier than it turns out to be in actual practice. When there is a small crop it is easily destroyed, but in years when there is a large crop nothing is done, and consequently there is a large increase in insects the following year. It is sometimes thought and claimed that in a season when the crops are small it is not worth while treating orchards, but that of all seasons is the time to treat them most carefully, because if you can keep your apple crop clean when it is small, you will get a much

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