

and stow away in cupboards or drawers, —the last mode is by far the cleanest and most approved with the best house-keepers. Some, indeed, powder the leaves at once after drying, and put them away in bags ready for use.

#### ON THE GOOSEBERRY GRUB.

As the season is at hand when the gooseberry leaves begin to shoot, a few remarks on what is commonly called the grub, which commits sad ravages on the foliage of these shoots, may not be unacceptable. Early in March, if the weather is favourable, the first flies issue from their chrysalis, a few inches below the soil, at the foot of the trees; and, by a sharp-sighted observer, may be seen about nine or ten o'clock in the morning, should the sun be shining, hovering over the gooseberry trees; and, every now and then, settling on a leaf, vibrating their antennae in bustling action, searching for a suitable leaf whereupon to deposit their eggs; and every fly destroyed at this period is, therefore, the ultimate destruction of some thousands of voracious successors. If carefully watched, after having made choice of a leaf, it will be observed retiring to the underside; where, in course of time, it deposits, along the stronger fibres or veins of the leaf, a series of eggs, which appear like small pellucid oblong strings of delicate beads, following the lines of the foliatory nerves.

The following observations on the times of hatching, &c., may be relied upon as accurate:—

On the 9th of April the eggs were laid; on the 19th they were hatched; and if the temperature is mild, they increase rapidly to maturity; and from their numbers (for a single fly will fill up the veins of many leaves), the foliage of the devoted tree is soon destroyed. They usually continue in the lava state about ten days; when, dropping to the earth, they penetrate below the surface, and change into a small brown chrysalis; in which dormant state they remain from fourteen to seventeen days, and then come forth as flies, which, in a day or two, lay their respective quantities of eggs; and, thus, brood after brood is continued indefinitely; and I am not aware that any limits of season act as a check, unless attended with decrease of temperature, which, of course, puts a stop to their progress. One mode of guarding against the evil I have already noticed, but the most keen-sighted gardener can never effect the destruction of the original stock of these vernal progenitors. He should, therefore, from the first moment of seeing the flies hovering about his trees, keep a sharp lookout on the leaves, particularly those near the lower part of the stem, which are their most favourite resort; and as soon as he sees a small perforation, at first scarcely

bigger than a pin's head, let him diligently examine the tree, and carefully remove every infected leaf. No labour will be better repaid than this. I have usually turned in a troop of little boys who can easily insinuate their fingers amongst the branches; and, with a little practice, they become expert in plucking the egg-bearing leaves, for which they are paid at a certain rate per hundred; collecting them in a basket, the contents of which should be burnt or scalded so as to prevent the escape of a single grub. Another remedy might be resorted to in gardens much infected with this nuisance; namely, taking the trees carefully up, and transplanting them in new ground very early in the spring; and then soaking the holes from which they were taken with quicklime and scalding water; though, such is the impenetrable case of the cocoon in which the chrysalis is enshrined that I have my doubts whether this precaution, however severe, will in all cases answer. It might be supposed that, by carefully examining the soil, great numbers might be taken; but this is not the case; for, whether from a glutinous quality in the external shell of the cocoon, or other cause, I know not, minute particles of earth adhere in so singular a manner, that I found it almost impossible to discover a single individual in the earth of a small flower-pot, in which to my certain knowledge, a considerable number had buried themselves; and from which, in fact, after I had searched in vain, when their hour of release was at hand, they emerged in full force. The dark spot upon the upper wing is an infallible mark whereby to distinguish them from some other small ichneumon flies resembling them, at least not easily distinguished by persons who are not naturalists.—*E. S. in London's Mag. of Nat. Hist.*, 1830, vol. III., pp. 245-6.

#### Communications.

SIR,—At this season the main interest of the farm, at any rate in Nova Scotia, centres in the Dairy. Next to meat-making, this is, perhaps, the most suitable and profitable form of farming. The produce of the farm, instead of being sold off, and nothing returned to the land, is fed to the animals and manure is made, and although the manure made from dairy stock is far inferior to that made from fattening cattle—so much more of the phosphates &c., being taken up from the food to form the milk, which in the case of beef cattle is not required in the system and therefore passes off in the excrement, still the food is in the main returned to the soil, and as generally the keeping of cows is supplemented by the keeping of pigs, the skim milk is usually fed to the latter, and if their manure is

saved, as on all properly regulated farms it should be, after all the main constituents find their way back to the soil.

As in any other avocation, a study of the market will best guide the farmer as to the most profitable disposition of his produce. Butter is a portable article, so is cheese. Milk spoils readily, so cannot be carried far, and, less competition from a distance being probable, it must command relatively a higher price; therefore no person can be considered as making the best use of his milk who converts it into butter, when he is within such a distance of a ready market as enables him to sell his milk fresh in that market. Dwellers in towns must have milk. In the case of Halifax the immediate neighbourhood is ill adapted to farming—the few acres cleared are being rapidly covered with houses, thus reducing the area of land available to support cows and increasing the number of human mouths requiring milk. All this induces me to place milk first on the list as to profit, but there are drawbacks. The unsuitableness of the hours at which the trains run for this traffic; the distance of the Richmond station from Halifax is equal to 25 miles by rail—the expenses of carriage is about the same and the expenses of the milk great; then the difficulty of securing a trustworthy agent to retail the milk. It avails little, however fresh and pure the milk may be sent from the country daily, if it is largely diluted with lake water on arrival. Country milk gets a bad name, so do the farmers from whom it comes, and by comparison with this “manufactured” sky-blue fluid, the milk from the swill fed cows of the city is voted a delicacy. Let us look forward to better things: the prospect of an extension of the railroad into town is improving; an increase in the number of trains will follow; there will then, too, be less difficulty in obtaining trustworthy retailers, and milk should then be saleable at a remunerative price in town, and those who live on the railroad within 40 miles of the city will certainly then find milk the most profitable article of sale.

Fresh butter ranks next. For this there will always be a demand, and one steadily increasing as the prosperity and wealth of the towns increase. At present there is little difficulty in supplying the demand in summer, but owing to the want of method in feeding cows in winter, the yield of milk and butter is so small then, that purveyors find it difficult even to supply a few regular customers. The winter feeding of stock must be considered later.

Next we come to the case of the farmer at a distance, his choice lies between salting butter and making cheese. Where the supply of milk will warrant it, there seems to be no doubt that cheese is the more profitable business. The results of