THE BANE AND ANTIDOTE.

The Army Worm and Moth and Its Deadly Enemy.
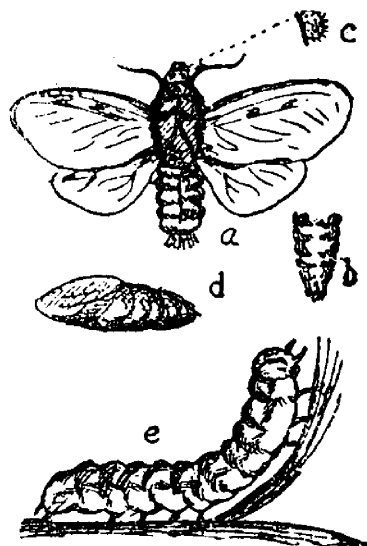

FIG. 991.—Army worm (Leucania un-
ipacta), about natural size.
a, male moth; b, abdomen of female;
c, eye; d, pupa; e, caterpillar.

In 1888 Mr. Fletcher, in his address to the Entomological Society of Ontario, referred to the army worm (Leucania unipacta) as being common in Canada, but rarely causing serious damage. He said :

A fact which has frequently been observed with regard to these caterpillars, and one which gives great comfort, is that whenever they increase largely in numbers, they are invariably checked by the appearance of friendly parasitic insects. It must be remembered that all insects are not injurious, but on the other hand that many are very beneficial, preying upon and destroying injurious kinds. These belong to different natural orders * * * Of the Diptera or two-winged flies, there are several species of Tachina flies, which closely resemble our common house flies. These lay their eggs on the surface of the skin of the caterpillar, to which they adhere firmly. When the young maggot hatches, it eats its way through the skin into the body of its host and thrives at its expense.

In July last Prof. Panton, of the O.A.C. Guelph, found the army worm in great abundance in the vicinity of Port Colborne ; and also Guelph. Every green thing was being devoured along the path of the army of worms which, however, had then nearly closed their campaign for the present season.

FIG. 992—Yellow-tailed Tachina-fly (Exorista flavicauda), which is parasitic on the army worm. (Double natural size.)

Kieffer a Good Market Pear.—It is remarkable that the only pear that is exhibited freely on the fruit stands of Philadelphia, during midwinter, is the Kieffer. This is in abundance everywhere. Whatever critics may say of their quality, somebody likes them, as they sell freely. A good point with them is that they do not rot easily by handling, as other pears do. They rank with the apple in this respect.—Meehans' Monthly.