

body, thus recovering its natural position; this unusual movement, together with its curious prominent eye-like spots, combine to make it a constant source of wonder and interest. Since it feeds only on decaying wood, it scarcely deserves to be classed with destructive insects.

*THE STAG BEETLE—Lucanus dama.*

This is another very common beetle somewhat similar in its habits to the eyed Elater, but very different in appearance. It is a large and powerful insect belonging to the family called Lamellicornes, or leaf-horned beetles, from the leaf-like joints composing their antennæ. In the male, fig. 8, the upper jaws or mandibles are largely developed, curved like a sickle and furnished internally beyond the middle with a small tooth; those of the female are much shorter and also toothed. The body measures from an inch to an inch and a quarter in length, exclusive of the jaws, and is of a dull mahogany brown color. The head of the male is broad and smooth, that of the female narrow and roughened with punctures. The insect appears during the months of July and August, is very vigorous on the wing, flying with a loud buzzing sound during the evening, when it frequently enters houses to the alarm of nervous occupants. It is perhaps scarcely necessary to remark that it is not in any way venomous, and it never attempts to bite without provocation.



Fig. 8.

The female lays her eggs in the crevices of the bark of trees, especially near the roots. The larvæ live in decaying wood and are found in the trunks and roots of various kinds of trees, particularly those of old apple trees; they are also found in old cherry trees, willows and oaks. They are said to be six years in completing their growth, living all the time on the wood of the tree, reducing it to a coarse powder resembling sawdust. The mature larva is a large, thick, nearly cylindrical whitish worm, with a horny-looking head of a reddish brown color, dark mandibles and reddish legs. The body is curved when at rest, the hinder segments being brought towards the head.

When the larva has attained full size it remains in its burrow and encloses itself in an oval cocoon formed of fragments of wood and bark,