

APPLE TREE BARK LOUSE.

The scales which completely cover the piece of apple tree twig sent by Corwin Jacks, Genesee County, N. Y., are those of the apple tree bark louse, *Mytilaspis pomicorticis*, Riley—regarded by many as identical with the *M. pomorum* of Bouché. These scales have become so common in our orchards, and are so destructive to apple trees, killing large numbers of them, that they should be known by all of our apple growers.

They are generally, when they have been permitted to multiply, unduly crowded together upon the trunk, branches and twigs as thickly as they can be placed, forcing one another out of position, and frequently overlying. They give to the bark a peculiar roughened or blistered appearance, which should make them at once recognizable. Individually they are about one-twelfth of an inch long, and of the shape of an cyster or muscle shell, being narrow and pointed at the apex, rounded at the other extremity, and broadest centrally. Their color is brown, nearly approaching that of the bark, except at the apex, where they bear two of the cast-off coverings of the young insect, which are of a dull yellowish or horn color. The scale beyond these exuviae consists of waxy secretions of the insect, which have been thrown out by successive layers from underneath, very much as the shell of the oyster is built up.

The many changes that the insect undergoes—from its hatching from the eggs beneath the scale, through its becoming fixed to the bark, and its subsequent moultings, until it has assumed the full-grown scale, bearing underneath it perhaps fifty or a hundred minute oval white eggs—are full of interest, but they need not be related at this time, as they are to be found recorded in the writings of nearly all our principal entomologists.

In reply to the inquiries above made, we state: The insect is not one that is fitted for rapid spreading. Its introduction into orchards is usually through planting infested trees. As the male only is winged, wings are of no aid in its distribution, unless it be those of birds, or some other insect to which it may attach itself, and thus be conveyed from tree to tree. The chances for this, however, are few, since the free active life of the females is extremely brief. Upon their hatching from the egg, they may be seen for a little while moving rapidly over the bark, but in a few hours' time they usually attach themselves by means of their sucking tube or beak, and never thereafter leave the