

happened to get a book of "God and His Providence in His Insects," describing how wonderfully God has given to every insect the means of progeneration, even with the odds of man's destructive inventions against them, and also other natural enemies, such as birds and insects. Unfortunately the name of the writer has passed out of my memory. I know it is a Belgian writer. He explains many facts in ways which seem plausible, among others this of the black knot. I had already remarked this, and as well as the author came to the conclusion that the cause of it is an insect which instils through a sting an acid into the bark of the tree. This causes the sap to become poisoned, and makes it swell and become of a spongy nature, thus enabling the egg which is laid into the cavity (made by the proboscis of the insect) to hatch out by the heat of the sun. Then it grows and works through the soft spongy matter until it becomes alive, remaining then until it becomes a reddish worm about half an inch long. It ordinarily drops out towards the end of July, digs into the ground and turns into a chrysalis; some come out and some remain, like the potato slugs. The birds kill a good many off. It prefers the plum tree which exudes the gummy matter, thus the cherry tree as well.

You will not find a worm in every outgrowth, because not every egg happens to hatch out, or to remain in the cavity the insect makes. It begins its devastating work early in the spring, many remaining and hiding in the crevices of trees or elsewhere. If the spongy matter be cut off the worm dies, and though we do not burn it, the insects cannot live any longer. As long as there be any of the acid left in the bark it will run up, but if well pared off, the bark will partly grow over it.

There is besides a plum borer, having the same shape as the apple borer, big headed, which runs under the bark into the tree and causes it to die. We have all these pests to contend with. Until an effort be made by disinterested and generous persons, single-handed work will not do, for in a short time cherry and plum trees will have to go. In this neighborhood none care to cut down their trees, or to pare off the evil, so that there is an ample chance for them to multiply. They will afterwards attack the pear and peach trees, and even apple trees. With all our laws it remains where it is, as the thistle law, without sanction. The fire will not destroy all these enemies if man has no will to work to combat them, and he will have to do so to enjoy the