Entomology.

Currant Worms.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The destruction of the currant and goose berry bushes in this vicinity is astonishing. A green worm (known here as the "currant worm") in two or three days devours all the leaves. Now, this work of destruction continues because it is not generally known that there is a remedy. Yet such is the case. Obtain of any druggist some powdered hellebore, put it in a pepper-box, and dust it over the bushes, particularly those parts where the worms are located, and they will soon leave; and the best of it is, they will never return. In twenty-four hours after dusting the bushes, you will hardly find a worm. One ounce will do for ten or twelve hills of currant bushes, or double that number of gooseberry or currant trees, and will cost from eight to twelve cents. The hellebore is a powerful poison, and will never fail to kill the worms. No danger need be apprehended from its use, although it may make the person sneeze sometimes while using it. J. H. THOMAS.

Brooklin, C. W.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Can Mr. Thomas inform us whether this worm is the one known as the Goose berry Saw-fly? Perhaps he can send us a minute description of it, accompanied with a drawing. If he has found a certain and cheap remedy for the Saw-fly, he has been able to do what the assembled wisdom of the fruit-growers of Western New York failed to accomplish.

Orchard Depredators.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—There are in my orchard, and also in some of my neighbours', worms of three different sizes, which are destroying the foliage, and, of course, killing the trees. The first I will mention are about an inch in length, when full grown, and make a home for themselves like a spider's web, going out through the day, and trimming off every green thing where they go. These we destroy by picking off and burning the nest when they are in. The others are not so easily got rid of; they both live in the buds, and, by eating the heart out, cause all the leaves to die. They are from a quarter to half an inch in length. The one is all green; the other is a dark brown, with a black, shining head. By their ravages, last year, they have caused the top twigs of my trees to die. I did not know the cause then, but see it now; therefore I apply to you and your correspondents, through THE FARMER, to get a preventive, because there is no cure, at least I have found no means of killing a large quantity without, at the same time, injuring the trees. I think they hatch from an egg laid by a fly or bug, when the buds are very tender.

The Meadows, C. W. W. M. S.

NOTE.—Can you send specimens of the bud-eaters?

AN INSECT SAMSON.—Every one that has taken the common beetle in his hand, knows that its limbs, if not remarkable for agility, are very powerful; but I was not prepared for so Samsonian a feat as that I have just witnessed. When the insect was brought to me, having no box immediately at hand, I was at a loss to know where to put it until I could kill it; a quart bottle full of milk being on the table, I placed the beetle for the present, under that, the hollow at the bottom allowing him room to stand upright. Presently, to my surprise, the bottle began to move slowly, and glide along the smooth table, propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect, and continued for some time to perambulate the surface, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it. The weight of the bottle and its contents could not have been less than three pounds and a half, while that of the beetle was about half an ounce; so that it readily moved a weight of 112 times exceeding its own. A better notion than figures can convey will be obtained of this fact by supposing a lad of fifteen to be imprisoned under the great bell of St. Paul, which weighs 15,000 pounds, and to move to and fro upon a smooth pavement by pushing within.—*Professor Goss.*

Poultry Yard.

Bantams.

No one will dispute that for beauty, and animation, plumage and courage, the bantam is entitled to rank next to the game fowl. All are, or ought to be, of small size, but lively and vigorous, exhibiting in their movements both grace and stateliness. Above all is placed the celebrated and beautiful breed called "Sebrights." This breed, which Sir John Sebright brought to perfection, is very small, with unfeathered legs, and a rose comb and short hackles. The plumage is gold or silver spangled, every feather being of golden orange or of silver white, with a glossy jet black margin. The cocks have the tail folded like that of the hen, with the sickle feathers shortened straight or nearly so, and broader than usual. The term *hen-cock* is, in consequence, often applied to them; but although the sickle feathers are thus modified, no bird possesses higher courage, or more gallant carriage. The attitude of the cock is, in truth, singularly proud; and he is often seen to bear himself so haughtily, that his head, thrown back as if in disdain, nearly touches the two upper feathers—sickles they can scarcely be called—of his tail. Half-bred birds of this breed are not uncommon; but birds of the pure breed are not to be obtained without trouble and expense. Indeed, some time ago, it was almost impossible to procure either a fowl or an egg. There is also another beautiful variety—the game bantam. Gold and silver Sebrights should be of very small size, with perfectly clean legs, strutting carriage; head and tail thrown back till they almost touch; wing drooped, almost reaching the ground.

☞ In an aviary at Christchurch, Hants, belonging to Mr. Hart, the naturalist and taxidermist, are three mule hybrids between the pheasant and bantam. Their plumage is very beautiful, partaking of both parents. The birds are quite tame.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.—This complaint is supposed to arise from a parasite worm in the windpipe of the fowl. The best remedy is to extract the worms, which may be done by taking a quill from a hen's wing, and trimming off the feathers to within half an inch of the centre, pointed at the bottom. Put this down the windpipe, twist it round two or three times, and when drawn out some of the worms will be found adhering to the quill. If necessary, repeat the operation, but usually once is enough, as the others becoming loose, are ejected generally by the fowl itself.

ROUP AND LICE ON FOWLS.—To prevent or cure roup, and drive lice from fowls, feed them flour of sulphur, best kind.

To a gallon of boiling water add two large spoonfuls of flour of sulphur, and then thicken with corn meal, or corn and oats ground together. May be fed warm or cold, but *not hot. Feed once a week.* Keep the hen house clean and sweet, well ventilated, especially in summer and fall. have plenty of dry lime always in the house, and daily throw over the droppings a few shovels full; it absorbs the ammonia at once, and keeps the house sweet; never use coal or wood ashes; their use separates the uric acid and fills the house with an offensive odour.

In the fall and early winter they are the most liable to roup; then give sulphur more frequently.

If any are sick separate them—clean their mouths, feed soft food and sulphur. When their mouths are sore they can't eat, and die of starvation, unless some food is forced down their throats.

Sick fowls should be kept warm, and have plenty of water.—*Country Gentleman.*

FOOD AND TREATMENT FOR HENS.—Linseed meal is found to be a great promoter of egg laying. Mixed with scalded meal or shorts, or with sour milk, it is readily eaten, and is a good substitute for animal food and insects. Hens like Indian corn better than any other grain, and it is their cheapest food. For, confining hens, a covered room with a dry earth floor, is much better than an open yard, which the rain keeps in a filthy state most of the time. With sand to roll in, hens may be confined under cover the whole season. Half an hour before sunset they should be let out to range over the yard and garden. They will then be too busy picking grass, gravel, etc., to scratch and do mischief, being always in a hurry to return to the roost before twilight. Hens thus kept will more than twice pay for their keeping, if not too old to lay well. Two or three days imprisonment in a coop will break up Black Spanish hens from setting, and they soon commence laying again if properly fed. It is only profitable for a villager to raise a few early chickens to renew his laying stock, as chickens are great and increased feeders, eating when half grown much more than old fat hens.—*Exchange.*

Veterinary Department.

Shoulder-slip in Horses.

A VERY common disease of young farm horses is one known as shoulder-slip. This in many parts of Canada is called "Sweenie." This disease arises from a sprain of the muscles of the shoulder, especially those situated on the external surface of the *scapula* or blade bone. The muscles from being sprained gradually waste, until a hollow will be observed extending from the upper to the lower part of the shoulder. In other cases, when the sprain is severe, the shoulder joint appears at every step to slip outwards, and often leads to the belief that the shoulder joint is dislocated. Such, however, is not the case, but the slipping outward is caused by the external muscles being injured, incapable of performing their functions, and not able to counterbalance the contraction of the uninjured muscles situated upon the inner side of the blade bone. Shoulder-slip occurs most frequently in young horses and often results from their placing their feet awkwardly when first put to ploughing. Those horses are specially liable to it who work with energy, and whose frames are but imperfectly consolidated. At times the first symptoms observed is the gradual wasting of the muscles, which in many cases increases to such an extent that the ridge of the shoulder blade may be readily felt. In the majority of cases the shoulder will be observed stiff and slightly swollen. This symptom soon disappears and the muscles begin to waste. This spring we have observed a great many young farm horses affected with shoulder-slip, caused in a great measure by the horses being rashly put to hard work and when not in good condition to stand severe exertion. It is not uncommon for young horses to be kept constantly in the stable during the winter, and in a backward spring like the past, when every available hour is required to push forward the operations of the farm, they are at once put into the plough or harrow without any preparations to put them in anything like working condition, and forced to do as much work as an old and seasoned horse. The muscles are soft and flabby and consequently are liable to be sprained.

Shoulder-slip in general is easily treated, but necessarily requires a length of time to restore the parts. In order to a cure perfect rest must be allowed. In the first place hot fomentations are useful. In about two or three weeks a stimulating liniment or mild blister should be applied, and repeated at intervals of ten days or two weeks. The animal should be well fed, and after a time allowed gentle and gradually increasing exercise. Severe irritant dressings, such as are often had recourse to, are not needed, since mild applications are more efficacious and certainly more natural. It is not uncommon to observe blemishes on the shoulders of horses caused by the irritant dressings being too strongly applied for the cure of this disease. "Sweenie" is the name generally applied to this wasting of the muscles, and almost every horseman has a specific for its supposed cure. Many a poor animal is subjected to a species of torture by the application of these nostrums. In old horses the muscles of the shoulder sometimes waste from prolonged lameness in other parts of the leg and foot. This is a marked symptom of a common disease of the foot known as navicular disease, and arises from the animal in trying to save his foot as much as possible, failing to throw these muscles so forcibly into action, and as a consequence they atrophy. In such cases it is useless to direct treatment to the shoulder.