

Q. Do you mean white or black hellebore? A. White.

By Mr. Fairbank :

Q. What means would you recommend to destroy the tent worm? A. I think the most successful plan as yet is to cut out the eggs. They are laid in the summer, and remain on the trees all the winter, during which time the egg clusters are very conspicuous objects, and the eye soon becomes accustomed to seeing them on the trees. In the Lower Provinces, where the apple crop is an important industry, they tell me that their most successful plan is to go through the orchards in the winter time and cut out the eggs. I have been observing a nest of these worms in my garden and watching their habits, and I found that they went out to feed at six o'clock in the morning, and returned again at nine. They did not move again until the afternoon, when they came out and went over the tree, eating the leaves for two or three hours before going back. Just at that time I cut their career short.

Q. Can they be poisoned at that stage? A. Certainly they can be poisoned, but it is easier to cut out the branch when they are in the nest; or, if on the trunk of the tree, to crush them with some hard object.

Q. But that is frequently impracticable, owing to the size of the branch? A. Then the best plan is to spray the whole tree over. The nest is made up of a large number of layers or sheets and it is difficult and impracticable to get at the centre of the nest owing to these layers of web.

By Mr. Cochrane :

Q. Do you not think that a chief source of injury to fruit trees arises from the fact that they are killed by a process of what I would call starving out? People plant orchards, and they expect nature to go on and support the tree for all time, without any proper nourishment? A. Undoubtedly a great many people plant too many trees on the ground they set apart for an orchard. In Nova Scotia, where they are trying a great many experiments, they are in some cases going through the old orchard and cutting out every other tree, because they find the land will not support more than a certain number. There is not food enough for them. Plants are like animals—they want light and air, which are food to them, as well as good soil for their roots.

The Committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 23th May, 1886.

Mr. James Fletcher, Entomologist, presented the following letter in corroboration of his statements before the Committee, on the large amount of loss inflicted upon farmers by insect pests in the destruction of clover. The Committee adopted the letter as an addendum to Mr. Fletcher's evidence.

“ OTTAWA, 27th May, 1886.

“ JAMES FLETCHER, Esq., Entomologist,
“ Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

“ DEAR SIR,—Your remarks on the subject of weevil in clover seed before the Committee on Agriculture attracted my attention, and perhaps the following facts may be of interest to you.

“ In 1880 or 1881 we sold one hundred clover-threshing and cleaning machines at from \$300 to \$350 each. The parties who bought them found them profitable, averaging seventy-five days' work for each machine, threshing and cleaning from twenty to fifty bushels per day. In 1885 we sold only six of these machines.

“ Prior to the appearance of the weevil, there was a rapid increase in the acreage of land devoted to raising clover, chiefly for the seed. When we first introduced our machines, in 1864 we sold only six, and we were then the only manu-