

In *Troilus and Cressida*, Act V., sc. 2, is a reference to *Arachne*. *Arachne*, according to the ancients, was the daughter of *Idmon*, a *Lydian*. She was a skilful spinner, and contended with *Pallas*. Defeated and chagrined, she hanged herself, and was turned into a spider.

In *King John*, Act IV., sc. 3, *Hubert* suspected of murdering Prince *Arthur*, is told that

The smallest thread,
That ever spider twisted from her womb,
Will serve to strangle thee.

Other passages referring to spiders may be found in *Midsommer Night's Dream*, Act II., sc. 3; *King Richard II.*, Act III., sc. 2; *King Richard III.*, Act I., sc. 2, and Act II., sc. 4; *Cymbeline*, Act IV., sc. 2; *King Lear*, Act IV., sc. 6; *Romeo and Juliet*, Act I. sc. 4, and Act II., sc. 6.

Scorpions are spoken of in *Macbeth*, Act III., sc. 4; 2nd Part of *K. Henry VI.*, Act III., sc. 2; and *Cymbeline*, Act V., sc. 5.

It is evident that Shakespeare, in his walks around Stratford and on the pleasant banks of *Avon*, had found food for reflection in the appearances and habits of the commoner insect tribes. His were the observing eye and the contemplative mind; and with marvellous power he turned the knowledge of insect-life that he acquired to account, for the instruction and amusement of the men of his own day, and of after generations. He was one who could find

Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

And we are happy in that he has, in so many instances, interpreted these tongues, translated these books, written down the sermons and pointed out the good for us.

ENEMIES OF THE GRAIN APHIS.—Prof. H. Garman, Entomologist and Botanist of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, in a paper on the grain louse (*Siphonophora avenæ*) has the following to say about its natural enemies:

The helplessness of plant lice makes them the prey of many predaceous and parasitic insects. A visit to infested wheat fields in June showed great numbers of these present among the lice. Undoubtedly the injury to grain was very much lessened by the work of these friends of ours, yet, as we have shown, lice still exist in the fields, and they are liable again to assume destructive numbers.

Chief among the enemies of the grain louse are certain small, dark-coloured, four-winged flies, which belong to the same order as the common honey bee. These little flies deposit their eggs in the bodies of the plant lice, placing a single egg in each louse, and from the eggs come small grubs which live in the interior of their host, finally emerging after its death as egg-laying flies. Grain lice infested with these grubs become swollen, assume a brown colour, and by some means are fastened to the plants, where they remain as empty skins after the parasite emerges.

Small two-winged flies, about five-sixteenths of an inch long, with brassy brown thorax, and with the abdomen striped crosswise with black and yellow, also do good service in destroying the lice. They scatter their eggs among the colonies, and from these hatch greenish larvæ, which destroy the lice by seizing them and sucking their juices.

The lady bugs in both larval and adult stages devour the lice bodily. Several species of these beetles were common in the fields, but the most conspicuous from