## The Dutch Doctor's Insect Remedy.

Fifteen years ago, at a horticultural meeting, when the curculio question came up, I asserted in broken English that the curculio was a tevel (a plum divel,) and will eat fruit. First the plum, then the apricot, nectarine, peach, and the apple, and I will add that since then I have observed that they work on the pear and cherry. My recommendation as a remedy was then, and is now, the German Sparling or Spatz, a small bird that builds its nest on houses, barns, and in willow trees, near the road sides. Often and again I have spoken about the importation of these birds; but my advice was not heeded. If I was a female preacher, a travelling temperance medium or an office seeker, my good advice would have been noticed, and we should now have less to suffer from the pest of curculios. The importation of these birds would not cost much. A good way to introduce them would be for the State Agricultural Society to appropriate five hundred dollars, and each county society fifty dollars, to be used for the importation of these birds. Then we could secure hundreds of them, to be set at liberty in each county of the state. Simple structures which would afford shelter, erected on poles, or nesting places could be fixed under the eaves of the barn or outbuildings; these places would be accepted by the birds.

Those birds should be given most to the German farmers at first, as I believe the birds would feel most at home where they could hear the Dutch language talked, and see more the way of German living. I am of the opinion that when American birds can hear music and song they will become better singers—observation has taught me this. Now these Sparlings are house birds, and stay only where man lives, and on that account would always be near our orchards. They are used to insect food, but will eat fruit as well. One thing must be kept in mind: these birds, used to animal food to satisfy their appetites, seek for insects in the winter in their hiding places, and eat the egg deposit found on the limbs and on the fallen leaves, and such as is hidden under bark, or glued to the limbs, and by this means prevent the great increase which would follow from permitting the insects to escape, or the eggs to hatch.

My hints, made many years ago, are, by many correct thinking men, both at the east and west, being adopted, and the birds are being introduced into several states, and many are about to continue the good work. But, my friends, do not wait or stop after you have read these lines, but go to work at once, immediately give this article a spread all over our happy large country, for every paper may copy this, and thereby become a public benefactor. Talk to benevolent men, to all your societies, particularly to all horticultural and agricultural lecturers who speak at fairs. Collect money this fall and send a good man to Germany to get a large number of these good, God-blessed birds. During the summer they hatch every few weeks, five young at a time; and in a short time would become so increased as to give our children good sound fruit and a plenty of it.

My word for it, if you do not import these birds, the curculio, the caterpillar, the bark louse and other insects will so increase as to destroy, not only your fruits but your nurseries and your trees. Already our nurseries are full of insects, and if not checked, in a few years more it will be hard to find a sound tree in the great west.

All our curculio catchers and remedies are of no great benefit, if my neighbours use all these destroyers and I lie on my back and do nothing; as in that case I should raise the insects, and they might catch until doomsday, and I and others who do nothing would keep them supplied. To make a law to force me to destroy my insects would be oppressive, and will never be done. But my birds may be your birds, the country's birds, the protectors and angels over all our fruits. Will you hear more? From your friend,

DR. H. SHRODER.

Bloomington, Ill.

It is, we think, a conceded point that a man who originates an idea is best qualified to carry out and perfect it. Hence we hope Dr. Shroder will introduce his favourite birds, watch them carefully, and report the first one he detects catching a plum curculio. —*Prairie Farmer.*

## Entomolgical Queries and Replies.

Insect Specimens.—The insect enclosed in a letter sent by a subscriber from Esquesing was not to be found when the letter reached us. All such specimens for identification should be sent in a pasteboard box or some such receptacle, and not loose in a letter.

Walking-Stick Insect.—J. Wyllie, Ayr, Ont. The curious insect you sent us, resembling a thin stick with slender legs, is a specimen of the Walking-stick Insect (*Diapheromera femorata*). We have received quite a number of these creatures this year, and have already given several notices of them in our columns.

Pea-weevil (*Bruchus pisi*, Linn.)—An enquirer in Toronto has sent us some peas hollowed out by an insect, and desires to know "what the insect is, and how it got there." The creature is the notorious Pea-weevil (*Bruchus pisi*, Linn.) It got into the pea by the simple process of eating into it when it was a tiny newly-hatched grub, and when the pea was young and tender. It made a very minute hole in order to get in, which very soon closed with the growth of the pea, and kept the worm snugly enclosed and hidden from view. Here it grew with the growth of the plant, eating away the mealy part of the pea, until at length it assumed a pupa state, and finally, when the pea was ripe, turned into a beetle, as in the specimens before us. In this state it would remain all winter if left undisturbed, and next spring would set about its work of propagating its kind by laying eggs in the fresh pea-blossoms. Our correspondent will find a further account of this curious insect, and illustrations of its different stages, in the Canada Farmer for April, 1870, p. 137.

Specimens for Identification.—D. M., Mimosa, Ont.—No. 1. The larva found on a shrub in a marsh, with a large number of parasitic cocoons attached to it, is a Sphynx caterpillar, not the larva of an Emperor Moth. Being dead, we cannot determine its exact species. We have never before seen a larva with so enormous a number of cocoons attached to it, though there are generally a surprising number for the size of their prey. No. 2 is the chrysalis of the American Vapourer Moth (*Orgyia leucostigma*, Smith and Abbott) covered with two or three hundred eggs, from which would come out next spring, if not interfered with, a corresponding number of very pretty caterpillars. They are, when full grown, over an inch long, of a bright yellow colour, with thin yellow hairs along the sides of the body. The head is bright coral red; the next segment has two long pencils of black hairs projecting forwards, and the last segment but one a single similar pencil pointing backwards; on the fourth and three following segments there are some short brush-like tufts of yellowish hairs; and on the ninth and tenth two little coral-red knobs or warts. These caterpillars feed singly on the leaves of the apple and many other trees, and sometimes they are so numerous as to occasion a considerable amount of damage. The male moth has broad ashy-grey wings, which expand about an inch and a quarter; the front pair are marked by a whitish crescent-shaped spot at the lower corner; the female is remarkable for possessing the merest rudiments of wings, and looking like anything but a moth; she always lays her eggs on the outside of her cocoon, as in the specimen you sent us. No. 3. The beautiful metallic coloured beetle that you picked off the road is a specimen of the Divaricated Buprestis (*Dicera divaricata*, Say). Its larva is a white flattened worm, with a broad, almost square, flat head; it bores into the wood of beech, cherry, and other trees, resembling in its habits and appearance the notorious apple-tree Buprestis Borer. No. 4 is an extraordinarily shaped beetle that is quite abundant in old fungus, at the bases of trees and on decayed logs. It is called the Horned Fungus eater (*Boletophagus cornutus*), the former name from its mode of life, the latter from its adornment with a pair of strangely-shaped horns that project over the head. It is certainly, as you say, an ugly customer, though perhaps more curious than really ugly.