

ANOTHER STRAWBERRY ENEMY.

It appears that the strawberry growers of Illinois have had their strawberry crop injured by a very destructive insect. There was every prospect of a most abundant crop, when all at once it was found that as the berries were approaching their full size they were eaten by some insect that had appeared in countless numbers and had ruined the crop. We learn from the *Farmer and Fruit Grower* that Mr. Earle, President of the Mississippi Valley Fruit Grower's Association, has been a great sufferer, and will not be able to pick half a crop. He reports that his five acres of Sharpless will be totally destroyed, every berry having been sucked dry and rendered useless. He expected to gather not less than 15,000 cases of fruit from his strawberries this season, but now it will not amount to more than 5,000. Mr. W. W. Plater reports that his fields are entirely ruined, and that he has abandoned his crop. Almost every strawberry plantation in that section has been attacked by this insect, whose capacity for destruction seems to be wonderful. In consequence of the wholesale destruction of the strawberries in that part of Illinois, the great strawberry exhibition which was intended to be held, has been abandoned, as no longer possible. Professor Forbes, the State Entomologist, on being informed of this state of things, visited the scene of destruction in order to investigate the habits of this insect. He reports the injury done by all other insects that prey upon the strawberry, is not at all equal to the damage that has been done by this new invader. He states that it is a well known insect that has been common for many years, but never before known to injure the strawberry. He calls it the Tarnished Plant Bug, known to entomologists as *Lygus lineolaris*, an insect belonging

to the order Heteroptera, family Capsidae, genus *Lygus*.

At its first appearance it is a small, green, flat-like bug, about the 16th of an inch long, increasing to about one-fourth of an inch and changing to dull, russet color, and finally becoming winged and able to fly when full grown. It is said that it prefers the Sharpless, and leaves the Crescent comparatively untouched. It is certainly strange that this insect should so suddenly turn its attention to feeding upon strawberries, and if once it gets a taste of this delicious fruit probably it will not soon relinquish its new found pasture fields. We may expect that if it abounds with us it will also be found preying upon the fruit of our strawberry plants, and it is well for us to be forewarned and forearmed. Our readers will find on referring to Wm. Saunders' work on insects injurious to fruits, page 147 (a book that ought to be in the possession of every fruit-grower), the following description and account of this insect as it affects our pear trees: "This insect is about one fifth of an inch long and varies in color from dull, dark brown to a greenish or dirty yellowish brown, the males being generally darker than the females. The head is yellowish, with three narrow, reddish stripes; the beak or sucker is about one-third the length of the body, and when not in use is folded upon the breast. The thorax has a yellow margin, and several yellowish lines running lengthwise; behind the thorax is a yellow V-like mark, sometimes more or less indistinct. The wings are dusky brown, and the legs dull yellow. We are indebted to Mr. Saunders for the accompanying cut, which shows the full-grown insect. It passes the winter in a perfect state, taking shelter among rubbish, or in other convenient hiding places, and early in May, as soon as vegetation starts, it be-