

at work on the plants, if the earth is scraped away from about the stem of each and a handful of lime dusted around it and the soil again drawn up to the stem, the plants will sometimes recover. Coal-dust, gas-lime and stimulating artificial manures have also been recommended.

The cabbage has also suffered from injuries caused by the common cabbage worm, the green caterpillar of the cabbage butterfly which feeds upon the foliage, and often disfigures it to such an extent as to render it unmarketable. The habit of this caterpillar, feeding as it does among the folds of the leaves, makes it extremely difficult to reach with any sort of poison without at the same time rendering the cabbage unfit for use. Pyrethrum or insect powder, which is the powdered flowers of *Pyrethrum cinnerariaefolium*, has been used with good effect, either dusted on the plants, or mixed with water and applied to them with a syringe, and this remedy is not in any way objectionable or poisonous. The Pyrethrum plant is in my experience quite hardy in Ontario, has stood the severe cold of the past two winters without injury, and flowered freely. It is easily raised from seed, and being a perennial species, when once established it will continue to flower for an indefinite number of years. The flowers, collected when just about to expand, dried and powdered, are very efficient as a general insecticide.

During the past year or two many interesting experiments have been made and valuable results obtained, in the way of artificially introducing disease among communities of caterpillars, a sort of caterpillar plague or pestilence which carries them off by thousands. There is a very fatal disease which appears from time to time among silk worms, the larvæ of *Bombyx mori* when bred for the production of silk, a disease which spreads so rapidly that it frequently destroys entire broods of caterpillars within a few days. So destructive has it been that it is estimated that the silk crop in Europe is damaged by it to the extent of many millions of dollars annually. During the past ten years it is believed to have reduced the income of silk breeders some twenty-five per cent., and in 1879 was said to be the main cause in the great falling off in the silk crop of that year, which was only about one-fourth of the amount ordinarily produced. The celebrated Pasteur investigated this disease, and found it to proceed from the presence of an exceedingly minute form of bacteria, so excessively small that it has been estimated that it would require eight millions of them to cover the head of an ordinary pin. When water containing these minute organisms is sprinkled on the leaves on which the silk worms are