

The Potato Sphinx.

Mr. James Howett, of Uxbridge, has sent us a specimen of the chrysalis of the Potato Sphinx (*S. quinquemaculata*, Haw.) which he recently found when digging potatoes. "It was about three inches under the surface in a piece of apparently solid clay, with a hole inside about twice as large as itself; another was found in a different part of the field, but was accidentally cut in two by the hoe." This chrysalis is so very remarkable in shape that it may well excite the curiosity of those who meet with it. It is about two and a half inches long by half an inch in thickness, of a chestnut-brown colour, and round in shape, tapering towards both ends; from one end, which is the head, the speci-

its body is the same length as the chrysalis; it is furnished with an enormously long tube or tongue, through which it imbibes the nectar of flowers, and which, when not in use, is coiled up into a very small compass under the head, like a watch-spring.

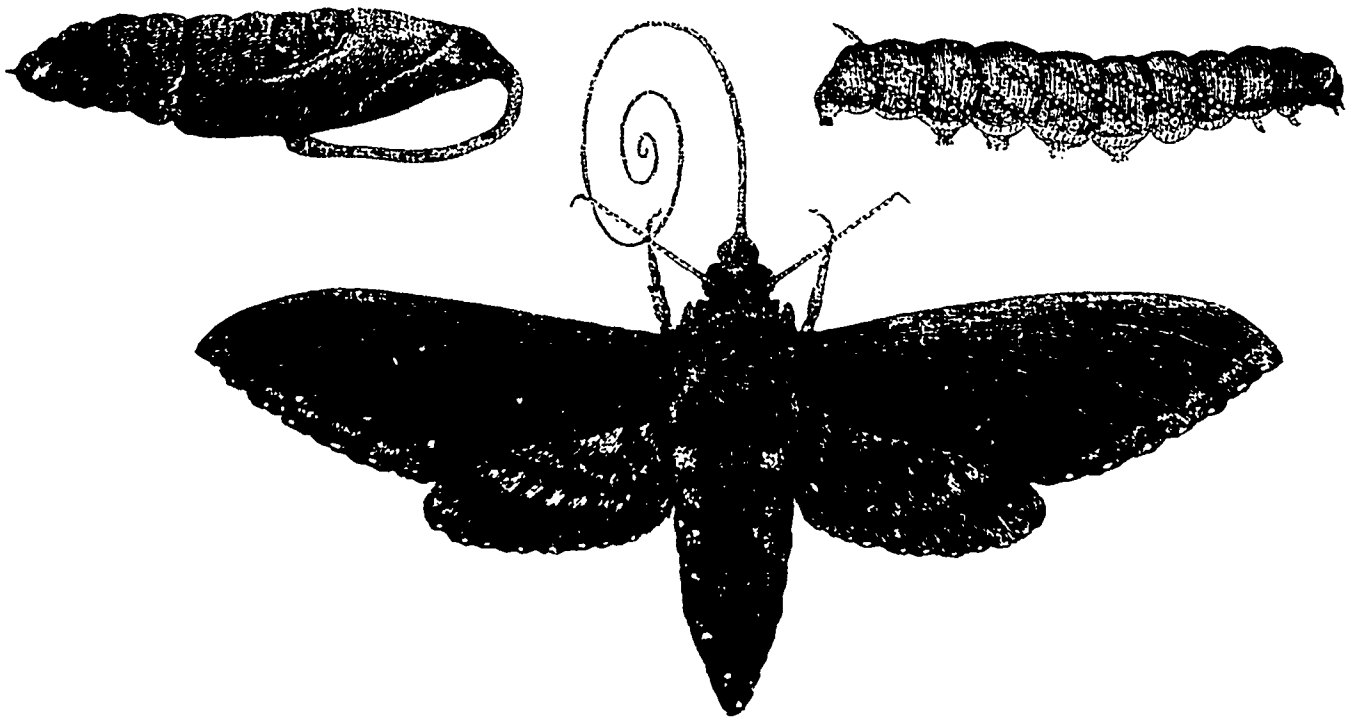
The accompanying illustrations represent the insect in its three stages of caterpillar, chrysalis, and moth, and will afford the reader a better idea of its appearance than any length of written description.

The Slug on Pear and Cherry Trees.

"The insect generally called the pear or cherry tree slug (*Slendria cerasi*, Peck) has in our grounds been so few and so little injurious this season that we had

either by hasty observation or by the unreliable testimony of others.

Though not very troublesome in the West, this insect often does much damage in the more eastern States, and it has this year absolutely stripped many orchards of every vestige of green along the line of the Michigan Central Railroad, leaving nothing but the sere and yellow leaf robbed of its parenchyma. We found that the popular remedy was sand, there being an abundance of this commodity along the lakes; but, as our friend Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, Ontario, has abundantly demonstrated, and as we have ourselves proved, simple sand does not kill. It sticks to Mr. Slug, so that he frequently falls to the ground, and thus it appears to kill him,



men, there proceeds a long curved proboscis, like the handle of a jug; the other end is divided into broad rings, and terminates in a point. The caterpillar which has turned into this creature is no less than the terrible "Tomato worm," about which one hears so many marvellous stories, and in whose supposed poisonous properties we have not the slightest faith. It is usually of a dull green colour, with yellowish-white oblique stripes on each side of its body, and a sharp thorn-like tail; sometimes, however, its colour is bright sea-green with flesh-coloured stripes; and sometimes dark brown, or even black, with yellow stripes. It feeds upon the tomato and potato, devouring a large quantity of leaves, but seldom being numerous enough to inflict any appreciable damage upon such rank-growing vegetables. This chrysalis, if it meets with no misfortune, will turn next summer into a large handsome greyish moth, with five bright yellow spots on each side of its body; its wings expand five inches, and

almost forgotten to notice it, until, passing the orchard of one of our neighbours a few days since, we saw his pear trees almost entirely denuded of their foliage by reason of the slug. It is a little singular that any cultivator can neglect to guard against such results, when merely dusting the foliage with lime, plaster, or even the ordinary dry soil, will at once destroy the insect. The first brood is now about over, but a second one may be looked for from the fifteenth to the last of August, and they should be carefully watched for and destroyed by all who wish health or vigour to their young pear or cherry trees."

The above is from a correspondent of the *Journal of Agriculture*, who writes over the signature of "Addi," and whose articles abound in common sense, and are usually very correct; but in stating that the Pear and Cherry Slug can at once be destroyed by ordinary road dust he has made a very pardonable error, and has been deluded

but he very soon manages to divest himself of his sand-covered coat. In fact, he naturally sheds this coat several times during his growth, and if the sand is applied at the proper time it proves a positive advantage to him, by stiffening his old and useless skin, and enabling him the better to crawl out of it. If it be applied a day or two before the proper time to moult has come, then, like a good philosopher, determined to make the best of the circumstances, he concludes with some reluctance to let the soiled habit go before it is quite worn out. Common road dust is equally harmless, and even plaster will prove ineffectual, unless applied before the last moult takes place, for after this moult the slug bids adieu to his slimy coat,

Moral—Never use sand or road dust for the Cherry Slug, but rely on lime, which will burn through the skin to the flesh, or on white hellebore water, which will poison.—*American Entomologist and Botanist.*