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## PRACTICAL AND POPULAR ENTOMOLOGY.—No. I.

### THE PEAR-TREE PSYLLA AND HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

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[At the last Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society it was decided that a series of articles should be published monthly in this magazine of a popular or practical character, in order that in each issue there should be something of interest to the general reader in addition to the papers of a technical and purely scientific character. It is intended that the series shall cover a wide range, and include articles which will be useful to beginners in entomology, and also to the fruit-grower, farmer and gardener, as well as to the many students and teachers who are now interested in Nature-study. The following article is by Mr. Fisher, who was for several years Inspector of Scale-insects for the Province of Ontario, and who has a practical and intimate knowledge of many injurious insects, and of the most effective methods of dealing with them.—ED. C. E.]

Several instances of disastrous and even fatal effects to valuable pear orchards from being attacked by the Psylla have come under my observation, as well as entirely satisfactory results from treating the trees.

The life-history and habits of injurious insects must be accurately determined before we can know just how to deal with them. A knowledge of the habits of such insects will also often enable the farmer to so manage his land and crops that the insects are placed under unfavourable and even destructive conditions.

The Psylla winters in the full-grown or perfect state, a minute brick-red fly, about one-eighth of an inch in length. From the broad head the body tapers to a point at the caudal extremity. There are two pairs of large transparent wings, which when closed cover the body. The thighs are abnormally developed, which enables it to jump a long way; hence the name "Pear-tree Flea-louse." In form this insect is the counterpart of the Dog-day Harvest fly (*Cicada*) in miniature (Fig. 1).