

CURRENT AND GOOSEBERRY SLUG OR WORM.

(*Nematus ventricosus*).



The full-grown worms are about three-fourths of an inch long, and are shewn at (a); (b) gives the position of the black spots upon a magnified joint of the body.

This voracious insect differs from the Cherry Slug. The flies are yellow, not black. The slugs are green, or green dotted with black, and not brown. They feed on the gooseberry or currant, and eat the leaf entire, instead of merely removing the cuticle. It is so readily dealt with by the timely application of remedies, that there can be no possible excuse for the shocking damage often seen done to these useful fruits about town and country homes.

POWDERED HELLEBORE.

Hellebore is the best of known remedies, and a perfectly effectual one. Properly applied, no harm can possibly result from it. It should, according to Prof. Lintner, be used in the following manner: Early in the spring, as soon as the leaves of the currant have fully put forth, watch for the first indications of the hatching and commencement of the young larvæ. You have only to look for these on the *lowest leaves of the bushes near the ground*. The indications will be numerous *small holes eaten into the leaves*. Sprinkle powdered hellebore over these leaves, renewing it if washed away by rain, and the desired end is accomplished. If the hellebore remains upon the leaves during the time that larvæ are hatching, all will be killed, and none will remain for subsequent spreading over the leaves and for the need of future attention. If the first brood of worms is thus destroyed, there will be few, if any, to form a second brood in June.

HAND PINCHING.

Some find it convenient to watch for the first eaten leaves, and to pinch them off by hand and destroy them. The eggs are always to be found conspicuously arranged in rows upon the veins of the under side of the leaves.