

were committed in the wilder and least frequented parts of Maine, New Hampshire and New York. Dr. Fletcher noticed that the eggs of the German insect were laid in double rows, and those of the Canadian in single rows, but was of opinion that the species must have been introduced on account of its rapid increase and spread, and freedom from parasites, and the fact, frequently observed, that the European Larch was attacked in preference to the Canadian. The practical disappearance of the pest is probably due to parasites, as this is Nature's usual method of keeping the balance of forces.

The Larch Saw Fly belongs to the Order Hymenoptera, and is a small insect about half an inch long, its color being black and orange. The wings are four in number, black-veined with a tawny fore margin and dark black spot—the stigma—towards the tip of the wing, and in the female have a spread of three-fourths of an inch. The head, thorax, and base and tip of the abdomen are black, and segments two to five of the last and part or all of six are a rich waxy orange color. The first and second pair of legs are yellow and the third pair longer than the others. The ovipositor, or female organ for depositing the

eggs, is fitted out with a saw apparatus for making the necessary slit in the larch needles to prepare a receptacle for the egg, hence the name sawfly. The eggs are laid in the terminal young shoots, and sometimes in one of the lateral shoots as well, and give them the peculiar distorted appearance which is a sign of the work of this insect. The larvae, when hatched, are dark green, with the head large and dark, and they begin immediately to eat the leaves with a voracious appetite, beginning at the apex of the twigs and working down. When disturbed they curl up into the peculiar "S" shape so characteristic of the saw fly. They are active for about one to three weeks and after the last moult the color is bluish, the head and thoracic feet black and the lower part green, while the length is about 1½ inches. They then change to brown or pink, drop from the trees and prepare for winter, by spinning brown cocoons under the leaves, or debris, or sometimes down a short distance in the earth. The mature fly appears about the end of June or beginning of July, according to the locality and the cycle goes on again. The damage is done in the larval stage by the destructor of the tamarck needles, the trees being bared and killed out.—Ed.)

In the course of an article on "Things a boy should have a chance to read," in the "American Review of Reviews" for December, Mr. H. L. Elmendorf deals with the so-called Nature books, and as we agree most cordially with what he has said, a few excerpt may not be amiss:—"For instance, he must know the value of the ethical animal stories, in which animals talk and reason in a human way, beginning with 'Aesop's Fables,' which the boy may have as a very little boy in 'Baby's Own Aesop,' pictured by Walter Crane, or later in Joseph Jacob's 'Fables of Aesop,' through 'The Delectable History of Reynard, the Fox,' down to their natural successors, Kipling's 'Jungle Books.' These teach ethics, — the power of kindness, the necessity and nobility of obedience, the strength of the weak, and the quality of mercy. Then there are ani-

mal stories such as Lloyd Morgan's 'Animal Sketches,' Ernest Ingersoll's 'Wild Life of Orchard and Field,' W. C. Hornaday's 'Two Years in the Jungle,' and Paul Du Chaillu's 'World of the Great Forest,' which teach natural history,—healthy books of which boys, as a rule, are very fond. Between these two classes there is a mass of pernicious stuff, generally published under the name of 'nature books,' but most unnatural, where 'peach trees ruminate on the distribution of their pits, and the caterpillar reasons as to his future metamorphoses,'—false science and poor stories. Those who love nature and outdoors should be told of the best bird books, such as Chapman's 'Bird Life' and Dugmore's 'Nature and the Camera,' of Mrs. Dana's 'How to Know the Wild Flowers,' of the fern books, the mushroom books, and the like."