

year. The eggs of the first brood are deposited upon grasses, and upon early sown grain.

Prevention.

Keep land clean from couch-grass or other grasses which harbour the insects. Keep the land rich and well cultivated, and sow early in order that the crop may grow rapidly and vigorously away from the attack.

Remedies.

Nothing can be done in the way of remedies but to stimulate the infested plants with liberal dressings of nitrate of soda, or sulphate of ammonia, or guano, in order to encourage rapid growth, and to force the ears from the sheaths.

Natural enemies.

From a large percentage of the pupae-cases of the Ribbon-Footed Corn-Fly kept in grass-covered boxes, (1) a parasitic hymenopterous fly came forth. This fly (Fig. 4 natural size, 4a magnified) is known as "*Coelinus niger*," a pretty brown insect about a quarter of an inch long, with brilliant wings. In the body of the corn-fly larva it places an egg, from which a larva is hatched, and feeds upon its host.

There is another fly, "*Pteromalus micans*," which is parasitic in a similar manner upon the Ribbon-Footed Corn-Fly, and is described by Curtis as being very destructive to it.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The reckless and wanton destruction of forests has ruined some of the richest countries on earth.

(Sir John Lubbock).

Be careful not to wound a tree, an animal, even man himself, recovers from a wound or an operation more rapidly, and more perfectly than a tree.

(Sir J. Paget).

(1 Hymenopter is a fly or insect of which the wasp and bee are types. This one is a parasitic fly which lives upon the Ribbon-corn-fly as does the other one mentioned below.

Flowers which contain the most honey are usually tubular.

Flowers which are fertilized by moths, usually bloom in the night, and are of a colour easily seen in the dusk, as white or pale yellow, and often are highly perfumed, probably to attract the insects which are as necessary for their reproduction as the honey they contain is to sustain the life of the moth which collects it.

Boston Public Garden will have, next season, 164 beds of Tulips, the largest of which contains 500,000 bulbs. 100,000,000 bulbs will be used in all, beside 10,000 Hyacinths, 10,000 Scillas, 40 beds of crocuses, also 20,000 which are planted in the grass; these will be immediately succeeded by a show of Pansies and Daisies which are planted between the bulbs.

FAMILIAR TERMS.

It may be interesting to trace the meaning and origin of the terms and names of things and processes in daily use.

The term "acre" originally meant merely an open field unlimited in extent, until the reigns of Edward the third and Henry the eighth, when an acre was defined by Statute to be a piece of land containing 160 square rods or perches, or 4,840 square yards, this is still the size of the English and United States acre, but the Scotch acre is larger.

Rod, perch or pole, is a measurement of length, 5 1-2 yards long and the origin of this peculiar length is thus accounted for by Sir John Lubbock in his admirable work "*The Beauties of Nature*" 1893, Macmillan & Co., publishers.

"The "acre" is the amount of land "which a team of oxen was supposed to "plough in a day.

"The furlong or long "furrow" (220 "yards) is the distance a team of oxen "can plough conveniently without stop- "ping to rest. Oxen were driven, not "with a whip, but with a goad or pole, "the most convenient length for which "was 16 1-2 feet, and the ancient plough- "man used his "pole" or "perch" by