

NATURE OF THE INJURY AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE INSECT.

A brief account of the nature of the injury done by this pest has already been given under the heading "How to Recognize the Work of the Apple Maggot," but fuller details are desirable.

The female fly lays her eggs in the fruit after first piercing the skin with her sharp sting-like ovipositor. (See Fig. 12.) The egg is placed in the pulp a little below the surface. After hatching the larvae begin to work their way here and there through the flesh, tearing the tissues with their hooks as they go and absorbing the juice thus liberated. The injured tissues die and turn brown, thus



Fig. 12.—Abdomen of female showing the ovipositor protruded (much enlarged).

leaving a trail wherever the larvae go. There may be as many as forty or fifty eggs laid in a single apple, hence many brown trails may be found crossing and recrossing each other. Thus a large proportion of the cells of the apple may be drained of their juices and become brown and tough in texture. Such apples are often spoken of as "woody" and are not fit for sale or even for home use. They are likewise not good for canning or evaporating.

So long as the apple is firm and not ripe the maggots remain small and the interior of the apple does not collapse, but from the time the fruit begins to ripen



Fig. 13.—Cross-section of over-ripe apple showing the way the maggots often break down the tissues.