

"On Snow Ball\* we find that this mixture in the proportion of one to eight, used just before the plant lice eggs hatch is astonishingly efficient. A twig not treated and one from the same bush that had been treated were each put into a glass bottle in a warm room. In a few days the one bottle was alive with the newly hatched lice, while in the other only one live louse was found. Bushes side by side, the one treated the other not, give equally satisfactory results. This early treatment is absolutely necessary in such cases as the Snow Ball, and is to be recommended on the score of economy in case of nursery stock and fruit trees. It is easier and requires less of the liquid to thoroughly drench a leafless tree than one in full foliage. It is also less difficult to make the application very thorough, which is all important. We have just applied this liquid to orchard trees where the buds were literally covered with lice, and we find the lice totally used up."

These plant lice are so exceedingly prolific that were there not some natural check imposed upon them, they would soon overrun all vegetation. We find, however, that they provide food for several kinds of predaceous insects and there is seldom a heavy visitation of *Aphis* without a corresponding appearance of its enemies. Some of the most useful of these are the following:—

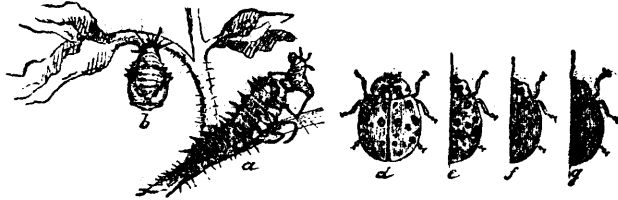


Fig. 4.

The larvæ of the *Syrphidæ*, a class of beautiful and active flies marked with yellow and black (Fig. 4), which may be seen in the summer around flowers, poised apparently motionless in mid-air for a few seconds, then, darting a yard or so, stopping again, and dashing off suddenly in another direction. The larvæ are elongated brownish maggots, with the front segments much smaller than the rest and capable of being extended some distance to the right or left. These larvæ, which may generally be found crawling upon the stems of plants infested with aphides, destroy enormous numbers of plant lice.

Perhaps the most industrious and business-like destroyers of these injurious insects are the numerous species of the Lady-Bird Beetles (*Coccinellidæ*.)

Fig. 5 represents the Fifteen-Spotted Lady-Bird (*Anatis 15-punctata*, Oliv.) a large and abundant species. It varies much in appearance; at *d, e, f, g*, are shown four of the different forms under which it is found; *a* shows the larva devouring a grub of the Colorado potato-beetle and *b* is the chrysalis.



(Fig. 5.)

I frequently receive accounts of how much these active little friends have assisted the fruit-grower; but sometimes, unfortunately, their presence in numbers amongst infested crops is misunderstood and they are mercilessly destroyed by those who are not acquainted with their habits. Other beetles which have shown themselves vigorous assistants to the fruit-grower in British Columbia, are the Soldier-Beetles (*Telephoridæ*) Mr. G. A. Knight writes from Vancouver Island, "the amount of green flies this spring was awful, and they threatened small apple trees with complete destruction. I was preparing for war when an army of soldiers made their appearance and fought the fight for me. I never saw such quick work. In one week there was not a green-fly to be seen, and the beetles disappeared almost as suddenly as they came. They are the same kind† as cleared my black currant bushes when you were here in 1885. Since they went the Lady Bugs have kept the green-flies in check."

\*NOTE.—*Viburnum opulus* or Common Guelder Rose.

†NOTE.—(*Podabrus comes*, Lec.)