

HOW TO DESTROY OUR INSECT ENEMIES.



THE insect enemies of the fruit grower are yearly increasing in number, making the business of cultivating fruit much less simple than formerly ; but this only enables the enterprising man to reap the greater success, for, with the many implements and remedies now within reach, almost every kind of insect and fungus may be destroyed, and fruit of the finest size and perfection be produced. In this article we propose to deal chiefly with some of the more familiar, the chief object being to point out the latest and most approved remedies.

PLANT LICE are of late, among the most common of all insect foes, and frequently are very difficult to overcome. Green ones are found in the early spring upon the young apple leaves, sucking away their strength ; and black ones in immense numbers cover the leaves and fruit of our cherry trees, a little later on, quite destroying one's appetite for this luscious fruit. Spraying with arsenites, and many other remedies which we have tested, have proved entirely unavailing to remove these pests, but kerosene emulsion carefully applied is effective. A good recipe for its preparation is as follows : One quart soft soap, one pint kerosene oil and two quarts of water. A strong suds is first made and the kerosene added while warm, when a permanent mixture will be formed, and this should be diluted with four gallons of water when required for use. The trees should then be thoroughly sprayed with this emulsion and the earlier the work is done after their first appearance the better.

BARK LICE have been so frequently described in these columns, together with the methods of treatment, that little need be said here regarding them. The oyster shaped scales, from which they derive the name of oyster shell louse, and which appear so harmless in the autumn and winter months, are each a protection for 60 or 70 tiny eggs. These hatch out about the first of June into young lice, so small that they can scarcely be discerned without the aid of a hand glass. About this time they creep out from in under the scales and roam about over the branches, seeking a suitable place to settle down for life. Frequently they are carried by the wind, or by the feet of birds, to other trees, and thus a badly infested tree may produce pestilence for the whole orchard. In two or three weeks they will all have settled down, each in his chosen place, there to insert his tiny beak and suck from the trees their vitality. Presently the scale forms over them, by the secretion from the surface of their bodies, and this becomes completely impervious by the month of August, so that no application at this season of the year would have any effect upon the life of the insect hidden away beneath it. Scraping the old bark from our apple trees in the winter and spring months is a very useful operation, as it also removes a large number of the scales, and gives a smoother surface for the application of washes later