During the day and towards evening, a great many small green flies, or what are popularly termed midges, had been caught in the web; of these we counted one hundred and twenty all dead and fast prisoners in the spider's net. Soon after dark, provided with a lantern, we went to examine whether the spider was suffering from indigestion or in any other way from his previous meals; instead, however, of being thus affected, he was employed in rolling up together the various little green midges, which he then took to his retreat and tea. This process he repeated, carrying up the flies in little detachments, until the web was eaten, for the web and its contents were bundled up together. A slight rest of about an hour was followed by the most industrious web-making process, and before daybreak another web was ready to be used in the same way. Taking the relative size of the spider and of the creature it ate, and applying this to a man, it would be somewhat as follows:—At daybreak a small alligator was eaten: at seven a.m., a lamb: at nine a.m. a young cameleopard: at one o'clock a sheep, and during the night one hundred and twenty larks. This, we believe, would be a very fair allowance for a man during twenty-four hours: and could we find one gifted with such an appetite and digestion, we can readily comprehend how he might spin five miles of webb without killing himself, provided he possessed the necessary machinery. —*English Paper.*

Enquiries about Insects.

THE TREE CRICKET (*Œcanthus niveus*, Harris).—A. W. of Wyoming, Ont., has sent us a twig from a cherry tree in his garden, which is filled with the eggs of this insect. On one side the bark is split open and the wood is perforated in a continuous row with a number of holes about as large as would be made by an ordinary pin; on splitting open the twig these holes are found to run diagonally across the pith, and each contains an elongate yellowish-white egg. The author of the mischief is represented in the annexed cut,

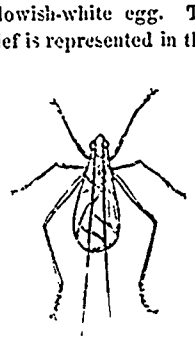

fig. 1.

Fig. 1 being the male tree cricket, Fig. 2 the female. The latter is furnished with an ovipositor, with which she makes the holes, and there deposits the eggs. The general colour of the insects is a delicate pale green, but occasionally darker specimens are found. The young, which resemble their parents in form and colour but are destitute of wings, hatch out about midsummer; towards the end of the season they acquire wings, and imitate their parents in the work of destruction. The loud sharp chirruping noise of these insects must be familiar to most of our readers; when they are very numerous it becomes so continuous as to be rather disagreeable.

There has been a good deal of doubt amongst Entomologists as to whether they should class these insects among our friends or foes: of late the question appears to have been decided against them, as their noxious qualities have overbalanced their beneficial ones. Our correspondent, we have no doubt would in tantly put them down as enemies of a very bad kind, as he says they have injured nearly every branch of his cherry tree. Their friends urge that this is a beneficial summer pruning, and is very good for the tree, but unfortunately there can some times be rather too much of a good thing. Besides the pruning, if we admit that in their favour, they also devour considerable num-

fig. 2.

bers of the noxious plant lice, and that ends the case for the defence. On the other side, we have to charge them with injuring the canes of grape vines, blackberries, raspberries (especially the Black Cap), perforating and so destroying the twigs and small branches of the peach, plum, cherry, white willow, elder, sumach, hazel, &c., &c., and even being so wicked as to sever grapes from the branches just as they are beginning to ripen, and even sometimes to cut off whole branches or to so much wound the stem as to prevent their ripening, Poor crickets! the jury must decide against you, your fate is sealed! *Fiat justitia!*

Remedies—Jar off the crickets when they are found on trees or vines, and quickly trample them under foot before they have time to rise from the ground; cut off in the winter or spring, and burn all perforated twigs and canes, and thus prevent the hatching of new broods.

THE CURRANT-BORER, *Trochilium tipuliformæ* Linn.)—A. W. also writes that "the currant-borer has done a great deal of damage, and that he first noticed it by seeing large holes picked in the stems by Snow-birds, he thinks, as he saw the broken stems before the snow was off the ground, and on cutting some of them he found a few white grubs." We do not think that the snow birds could have made the holes in the currant stems, their beaks, though strong, being of a somewhat different conformation from those of the wood-peckers. The holes were probably old ones through which the borer had escaped after completing his transformations, the broken stems were, no doubt, the effect of the wind on the hollowed and weakened canes. This borer is the larva of a pretty little black moth Fig. 3. with clear wings and three

fig. 3.

narrow yellow bands on its body, which resembles very much and might easily be mistaken for a small wasp. These moths fly about the currant bushes in the hot sun in June; in the cool of the day they may be found resting under the leaves. The eggs are laid near the buds, and soon hatching, the grub bores *into the soft stem and gradually hollows out* a large portion of the cane, remaining in it all winter, and till the following June.

Remedy—Prune away in the spring all but three or four canes, and burn all that are found to be hollowed or dead. The usual neglected condition of currant bushes renders them an easy prey to their numerous insect enemies.

GRUBS UNDER MANURE—These which A.W. says are very numerous in his garden, are probably the larvæ of some beetle or other insect that feeds upon dung, and are useful scavengers. We can say nothing positive about them without seeing specimens.

Chloroform is now said to be extensively used in England, without injurious results, to stupify bees so as to remove the honey. For this purpose, a table is set about ten feet from the hive, and covered with a cloth. Some chloroform, about a quarter or a sixth of an ounce, is then poured into a shallow dish and covered with a wire gauze, to prevent the bees from falling into it. The hive is then removed from its stand and set over the chloroform. In about twenty minutes, all the bees will have fallen down on the table in a state of stupefaction, not one remaining in the comb. After removing the comb, the hive and the bees are restored to their place, the latter soon recovering, without suffering the slightest inconvenience.—*Ex.*

THE COMMON FLEA (*Pulex irritans*, Linn.)—Most of us are so well acquainted with this insect in its perfect state, that it is not worth while to dwell upon its pecularities. It is not, however, so generally known that its larva is an elongate, wriggling worm, totally unlike the mother insect, and that it feeds upon particles of clotted blood deposited along with the egg upon the floor of apartments by the mother flea. Hence fleas cannot multiply in the room where the floor is continually scoured and swept; and hence, also, we may deduce the practically important corollary, that the modern practice of laying down a permanent carpet in bedrooms, instead of the old-fashioned bedside carpets, which used to be taken up every few days and shaken in the open air, affords