

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

color that it surely would sell like "hot cakes" in the market. The sample sent us measured 2 inches in diameter, the flesh was amber yellow, tender and juicy, and of very agreeable flavor. It will be remembered that this plum was originated by the celebrated Luther Burbank, of Santa Rosa, California.

THE GREEN FRUIT WORM, *Xylina antennata*, was very abundant in Ontario orchards during the months of May and June, and did much destruction to



FIG. 1636.—

the young fruit, eating large holes in the sides of many of the finest samples. In 1896 a bulletin was issued by Prof. Slingerland, of Cornell University, on this worm. It was calculated that in that year, 25 per cent. of the apples in New York State were ruined by it. The insect was first noticed in Missouri and Illinois in 1870, eating holes in the fruit, and in 1877 they appeared in large



FIG. 1637.—

numbers about Lockport, N. Y.; on one young pear orchard 45 per cent. of

the fruit being injured. Collectors have found the moths in widely distant districts in Canada and the United States, so that they have now become widely distributed.

MR. SLINGERLAND SAYS: During the first week in June most of the caterpillars get their full growth and then burrow into the soil beneath the trees to a depth of from an inch to three inches. Here they roll and twist their bodies about until a smooth earthen cell is formed. Most of them then spin about themselves a very thin silken cocoon; some spin no cocoon. Within the cocoon or the earthen cell, the caterpillar soon undergoes a wonderful transformation which results in what is known as the *pupa* of the insect. Most of these insects spend about three months of their life in the ground during the summer in this pupal stage. Some evidently hibernate as pupæ, and thus pass nine months or more of their life in this stage. Usually about September 15th, the moths break their pupal shrouds and work their way to the surface of the soil. Most of them emerge in the fall before October 15th, and pass the winter as moths in sheltered nooks; some evidently do not emerge until spring. Warm spells in winter sometimes arouses a few of them from their hibernation.

During the first warm days of early spring, all the moths appear, and doubtless the mothers soon begin laying eggs. No observations have been made on the eggs or young caterpillars in the North, but in a newspaper article published in the South in 1872, it is stated that the eggs are deposited in the spring on the underside of the leaves. They hatch in a few days, and the young worms begin at once to eat the foliage, or the fruit, or both.