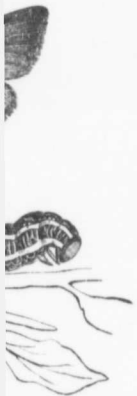


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of dealing with it is the application of Persian Insect Powder (*Pyrethrum*.) This may be used in its pure state or mixed with four times its weight of common flour. The powder should be puffed with a small bellows into the heads of the infested cabbages as soon as the caterpillars are observed, and at different times during the season. A few applications usually suffice to destroy the insect.

Another serious enemy to the cabbage is the Root Maggot (*Anthomyia brassicae* Bouché) which is reported as being specially injurious this year in the neighbourhood of Ottawa. In 1885 Mr. Saunders stated that the cabbage crop had been materially injured by it, and in 1890 Mr. Fletcher gave an account of it in his annual report, and mentioned that "in most parts of Canada it was the insect which gave the greatest trouble to the cabbage grower." Like most of our pests it has been imported into this country from Europe, but has long been naturalized amongst us. The perfect insect is a small two-winged fly, of a grayish colour. It lays its eggs in the spring upon the young plants, depositing them beneath the surface of the ground as far down as it can reach its ovipositor, or creep in some convenient crevice. In a few days the young maggots hatch out, feeding at first upon the outside, and subsequently as they grow larger boring into the stem. When there are many about the same plant, as is commonly the case, only a few of them penetrate the root, while the remainder live in the soil upon the exuding juices of the injured plant. The effect of the attack is the death of the plant as soon as dry weather sets in. Mr. Fletcher has found that the maggots can be destroyed by the application of a decoction of white hellebore. He used two ounces to three gallons of water, and after drawing away some of the surface soil forced the liquid about the roots of the plant with a garden syringe and then replaced the soil. The results of this treatment have, so far, been very satisfactory. Nitrate of soda as a surface dressing and watering with lime water have also been recommended as effective remedies.

The Pear-leaf blister (*Phytoptus pyri*, Sheuten) has been spreading over Ontario and the Maritime Provinces during the present season. It is a tiny mite which forms a gall on the leaf, and from the parent gall the young mites spread and form new ones, which soon give a blistered appearance to the leaf. In the autumn they remove to the leaf buds at the ends of the twigs and pass the winter beneath the leafy scales. Spraying with kerosene emulsion in the spring when the buds first open is recommended as a remedy, but nothing has as yet been found to exterminate the creature. It should be watched by our fruit growers and experiments made for its destruction.

The Fall Web-worm (*Hyphantria textor*, Harris) Fig. 7, to which I find it necessary to make an annual allusion, is this year more abundant and wide-spread than ever. Though so conspicuous and so easily dealt with, I find that few people will take the trouble to destroy it, and consequently it is rapidly becoming a most serious pest. It attacks deciduous trees of every description and also shrubs and herbaceous plants. It is especially injurious to young trees, which it soon strips of every vestige of foliage. Several young elm trees planted along the streets of Port Hope were rendered quite bare a few weeks ago by this caterpillar, whose work was done in a few days and thus escaped notice at first. These trees have put out a fresh crop of leaves, but I fear

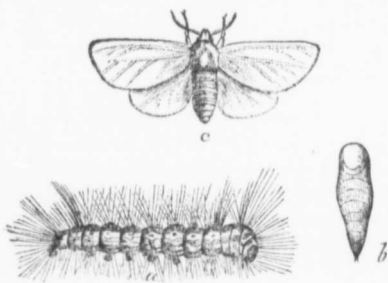


Fig. 7.

that they will be seriously exhausted of their strength, if not finally killed. Mr. Fletcher drew attention recently in the *Ottawa Field Naturalist* to the ravages of this insect, with very good results, as many people were led by his remarks to destroy the webs and their inmates wherever they found them. It is to be hoped that all the members of this Society will use their influence in the same way in any part of the country where they may be.