

other insects, ants and lady-bugs. But these two associates are quite differently interested in the aphids. The ant has long enjoyed a reputation for intelligence and thrift and the stories of her dealings with some of her neighbors, such as the cricket, long ago found their way into school literature, but on some bright autumn day you watch a few ants on a cluster of aphids you will see a story more wonderful than any you have ever read of her.

The aphids are in reality the ants' cows, and if one approaches carefully he may see the ants moving about among the aphid herd, "fondling them with their feelers, patting or stroking an individual here and there, and obtaining sometimes, in response, the protrusion of a drop of honey dew, which is lapped up as soon as it appears." The ants are also said to drive away intruders, such as small parasitic flies, which seek to lay their eggs in the aphids. Carefully insert a pencil tip among the cluster. How do the ants behave? Account for their action. In some cases the ants are said even to carry the aphids from place to place, and care for the aphid eggs during the winter, and distribute them on their proper food plants in the spring.

The lady-bug beetles are fond of aphids too, but their fondness manifests itself in a more direct manner, for both adult and larvae lady-bug beetles devour them in numbers.

There are a great many different kinds of aphids, and they have a most peculiar life-history; the whole cycle of life, in all its forms, extending from early spring till the last generation of autumn.

Most of our aphids are without body coverings, and range in color from green to almost black, but one peculiar little fellow, often found on alders in late summer and autumn, is a white woolly mass, and a cluster of these at first glance looks like a fungus growth. This is called the woolly aphid.

The Tussock moth caterpillar has been quite a pest in some parts of the Maritime Provinces during the past summer. The city of Moncton suffered quite severely from this pest, and at one time it looked as though they would strip many of the fine shade trees in the older part of the city. Such places will welcome the parasites of the Tussock moth to aid them in their work of extermination, for without such co-operation man's efforts would be vain.

But most of the caterpillars of the Tussock are gone now. Some weeks ago they built their hairy cocoons and passed into the resting stage. In this stage they remained from eight to twelve days, and then emerged in the winged form. But all their wings are not for flight. The males have normal sized wings and soon mount into the air and fly gaily away; but the poor females have the merest apologies for wings, small pads, that are not of the least use for flight. But the female has an important work to do, and does not have to move far, for the eggs are laid upon the surface of the old cocoon. One species covers these eggs with a white substance that looks something like a sugar crust; another species leaves the eggs uncovered.

All these egg masses should be gathered and destroyed before they have time to hatch in the spring, if we are to aid in the most effective way in keeping this pest in check.

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#### THE BROWN FAIRIES.

I saw a crowd of tiny men  
This morning as I came from town;  
They scampered on ahead of me,  
All clothed in russet brown.

I knew, of course, they were a band  
Of fairies, strange and shy,  
For none of them in all the crowd  
Was near as tall as I.

The old North Wind was chasing them  
With all his might and main,  
And every time they stopped to rest  
He sent them on again.

But all at once he puffed his cheeks  
And blew so very hard  
He sent the fairies through the fence  
Into my father's yard.

So I climbed after them, but when  
I turned and looked around,  
The only thing that I could see  
Was brown leaves on the ground!

— *Youths' Companion.*

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The Duke of Devonshire has left England to take up his new duties as Governor-General of Canada. The Duke of Connaught is taking his departure, and, according to custom, will pass the new Governor-General on the ocean.