

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

PARSNIP LARVA.—Mr. James Angus, of West Farms, N. Y., writes as follows respecting our notice of this insect in the last number of the *Canadian Entomologist*. "I am pleased with your description of the Parsnip Depressaria; it is an old acquaintance of mine. I have raised the larvæ and noticed their habits for many years. It seems to be very closely allied to, if not identical with a British species, *D. heracliana*, an abdomenless specimen of which I have in my collection." On again comparing our specimens with the brief descriptions in Stainton's *Manual*, we notice a great resemblance to that of *D. heracliana*, which had not struck us before. It is not at all unlikely that our species is an imported insect, like a great many more of the farmers' and gardeners' worst pests. We shall take an early opportunity of sending some of our specimens to England in order to have the question settled, and should the insect prove to be a British species we shall gladly withdraw the name that we have given it. We have no desire to multiply names or synonyms, which are becoming such a nuisance to Entomologists, but being unable to identify our insects from any description that we had access to, we determined—with some hesitation—to give it a name which could easily be withdrawn if the species proved not to be a new one.

LARVA OF HYPERCHIRIA VARIA, Walk.—On the 25th of July last, I found closely huddled together on the under side of a locust leaf (*Robinia pseudacacia*, L.) a cluster of fifteen small bristly caterpillars of a dark brown color. On opening the chip box in which they were confined, some hours after their capture, I found them ranged in a single line obliquely up and down its sides; when disturbed they set off in a procession round and round the box, following their leader in a most grotesque manner. After this whenever I looked at them, till they became very large, they were always either ranged in a single column, or very closely huddled together. By and by they became so large that the line of fifteen exactly measured the inner circumference of the box, and then, by dint of a little persuasion, I got them to form an endless procession around the inside of the box, each one following closely the individual before him. They went on in this way for upwards of half an hour, and looked as if they would have gone on for ever, till I thought they had had exercise enough, and broke up the column. At this time their length was 0.35 inch; their general color black; body entirely covered with long sharp compound black spines, so thickly branched on every side as to form a complete *cheveux de frise*—the terminal spinelets ended in a fine hair, the main stem being jet black, the side branches white tipped with black; along the sides there was a reddish-white line, and another of the same color through the spiracles. In other specimens the two lateral lines and the space between them formed together a band of reddish-white.