

the leafless state of the trees and the greater leisure which most fruit-growers have at that season), vigorously prune and scrape the infested trees, and afterwards apply some of the oily applications usually recommended. As a remedy not previously named, I would mention linseed-oil, which has been used with marked and beneficial results. Many persons have been deterred from using greasy or oily substances on their trees from a fear of evil consequences resulting to the trees; but there is nothing more certain than that judiciously applied in early spring, after the sap begins to flow, these applications do not injure trees, while they are effectual, more especially when applied at such season or during thawing weather, in killing the eggs under the scales, the oily particles being absorbed through and under the scales and destroying the eggs as soon as touched." Crude petroleum I have known to be employed with excellent effect, but of course care must be taken not to apply it to tender shoots or young branches.

4.—THE GOOSEBERRY AND CURRANT SAWFLY—*Nematus ribesii*, Curtis.

This is another very familiar pest on both sides of the Atlantic, and is only too well known to gardeners, both here in and in England, from the havoc its caterpillars cause every year to the leaves of currant and gooseberry bushes. It has been fully described in our Reports for 1871, 1874 and 1875, by Mr. Saunders.

Fig. 47.



A leaf with eggs on the under side.

Fig. 48.



Caterpillars of the Sawfly.

The parent sawflies appear, in this country, about the end of April or beginning of May, and lay their eggs on the under side of the leaves of the currant and gooseberry almost immediately after they expand in the spring. The eggs are deposited in rows, usually along the mid-rib and larger ribs or veins of the leaf, as shown in the figure above; the female generally selects for the purpose leaves that are low down in the middle of the bush. The larvæ hatch out in about a week, and begin at once to feed by eating small round holes in the softer parts of the leaf; as many as sixty or seventy have sometimes been found on a single leaf. The attack of the caterpillars may be discovered at once by the appearance of a number of small holes eaten through the leaves. Each brood feeds on the leaf on which it was hatched until it is completely stripped of all that is eatable, and nothing but the hard ribs remain; the individuals then scatter over the bush, half a dozen or more being found on a single leaf, and in a bad attack soon completely denude the bush of its foliage.

"These grubs," to quote Miss Ormerod, "are of a bluish-green, with black head, feet, tail, and also black spots on each segment, and with a yellowish space just behind