

attached to their victims, finally killing them. There are many kinds of parasitic insects, some, the Tachina Flies, resembling very closely house-flies; others, the Ichneumon-flies, Chalcis-flies, etc., resembling wasps. Some of the Ichneumon-flies are quite large and sometimes have a very long ovipositor or egg-laying apparatus, while the Chalcis-flies and Proctotrupids may be extremely small, so small in fact, that one can scarcely see them with the naked eye. Some of these very small parasites attack insect eggs, laying their own eggs in these. A single tiny egg is large enough to supply all the nourishment necessary to carry one of these little creatures through all its stages to maturity. Some parasites lay their eggs on the back of their hosts, but many lay them inside the body. A few species deposit not eggs, but living maggots upon or near the victims. The larvæ of a parasite does not, as a rule, kill the thing it feeds upon until it is itself full grown and ready to transform into an adult.

How useful parasites are can be seen when we remember the severe outbreak of the Army Worm last summer. Towards the end of this outbreak examination in the field showed that there was scarcely one of these caterpillars that was not parasitized. This year I have seen only one Army Worm. Now, the parasites may not be the only cause of the disappearance of this pest, but they are certainly one of the great causes and probably the chief one.

There are many useful predaceous insects, but I shall mention only two: namely, Ladybird beetles and Syrphus-fly larvæ. Everyone knows the pretty little Ladybird beetles with their hemispherical shape and often brilliant colours. The larvæ of these look like little alligators and are just as fond of destroying other insects as are the adults. Syrphus-fly adults usually resemble small bees or wasps, but they have only two wings. They may often be seen feeding upon flowers or hovering above them. Their larvæ are legless, taper towards one end and are stout and usually grayish or brown in colour. The Ladybird beetles and the Syrphus-fly larvæ are the two most helpful insects we have in the control of aphids or plant lice. Without their aid it would often be almost impossible to save our crops from these prolific and very destructive little pests. This is, however, only a single il-