

that there are to my certain knowledge two or three distinct parasites of the curculio. The question arises whether we can so foster and encourage the parasite that in time it will become stronger than the curculio, and eventually wipe it from the face of the earth altogether. I am trying a few experiments on a small scale to find out. Another curious thing about the curculios is that they seem to come suddenly and to disappear suddenly. Four years ago the corn weevil was very scarce in this locality, and the next year it appeared in vast numbers. I found it on the white oak, the red oak and on quercus robur; on three oaks. That in itself was a rather remarkable thing, as entomologists have hitherto noticed it only on the white or the red oak, I am not sure which, while I found it distinctly on three oaks. This year I have found traces of none, except one perfect insect I found on the 24th May, and the year before there were none. They seemed to appear one year and disappear entirely the next. In this Prof. Brodie's notes agree exactly with my own.

PEAR BLIGHT

The President called upon Mr. McMichael, of Waterford, to speak on his experience with pear blight.

Mr. McMICHAEL.—This is a subject in which I am very much interested, sadly interested this year and last year. I think it is now about twenty-five years since I began pear culture, and during that time we have had three recurrences of the pear blight. We would have about three years during which the blight was bad, and then perhaps five or six years freedom from it. We have also found that during the time it was bad in the pears it was also equally bad on the apple trees. In my pear orchards, where the blight has been worst, usually there has been an apple tree badly affected, and from that it spread very much worse to the pear trees. Where we have taken those trees out we have very much sooner got rid of the blight. Last spring—I may say that previous to that we had not been troubled for a number of years—I commenced cutting on it about the middle of July, and I have reason to regret that I did not commence a month sooner. This year, in an orchard of about 150 pear trees that have been planted out nearly twenty years, the trees had suffered a number of years with a fungus which caused the wood to become very brittle and hard, and this spring, I think on the 9th of June, I commenced working in them, and the points of attack would average from fifty to seventy-five or a hundred in each tree. They were in the twigs, and under the twigs. With one hand I broke the twig out; and with the other, with a paint brush filled with linseed oil, I went very thoroughly over the orchard, and I have done so four or five times since, and in scarcely an instance where this was taken out did the blight reappear. A few days after that I went into another orchard of trees, set out about eight years, which were remarkably thrifty, the growth long and the limbs just curling over and the tree full of bloom, but in those trees I found it very difficult to cope with the blight. The great difficulty is down on the limbs; these little twigs blighted, and in three or four days the bark would be colored, but by going over them every other day, just as the leaves began to turn, the art of taking these twigs off with a knife and painting over with linseed oil, I was enabled to save the limb. I had been led to believe, by the treatise of Prof. Burrill, that all the virus entered through the bark, or where it was punctured, but in this orchard in nearly every instance it entered through the ends of these little matured leaves or the blossom, and, where these are cut out, just a little paring around it stops it. The bark being punctured the virus might easily enter again, but the oil has a tendency to keep that out by closing the pores. If that orchard of eight hundred thrifty trees had been left until now without taking those diseased portions off, I might as well have burned every tree, but the present indications are that we shall be able to save it. One of the mistakes I made was in not cutting low enough; you have to cut three or four inches below any coloring of the bark, or the blight continues. In the other orchard, where the limbs are hard, there was no difficulty in staying the blight.