

INSECTS AFFECTING THE PLUM.

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1. THE PLUM SPHINX MOTH (*Sphinx drupiferarum*, Smith and Abbott).

Order, LEPIDOPTERA; Family, SPHINGIDÆ.

As this moth generally makes its appearance in our plum orchards from year to year, we have thought it advisable to give a short history of its different stages for the benefit of our fruit-growers. It is a member of a family of moths to which the great naturalist, Linnaeus, gave the name of *Sphingidae*, on account of the resemblance he conceived some of their caterpillars bore, in certain positions, to the notorious Egyptian Sphinx, and which our artist has faithfully represented in the engraving of the larva. While the ravages caused by this caterpillar are fortunately not very extensive, yet it generally appears in different localities from time to time in numbers quite sufficient to cause considerable annoyance to the plum-growers of those regions. Its conspicuous size, when full grown, and its bright, green-coloured body and mauve stripes, make it tolerably easy of detection, while the leafless twigs, the result of the voracious appetite necessary to sustain its huge carcass, are sure to cause the eyes of the observant fruit-grower to make diligent search after this monster leaf-eater. The larva (Fig. 19) is hatched from an egg, deposited (probably

FIG. 19.



Colours—Apple green, mauve stripes, orange stigmata.

singly on the underside of the leaf. By the kind permission of Mr. Wm. Saunders, we are able to give from his accurate notes a very close description of the appearance of the young larva. On the 2nd of July, a pair of *drupiferarum* were brought to him, which had been taken *in coitu*. They were confined together in a Seidlitz box. The next day the female began depositing her eggs, and continued to do so for two or three days. The following notes will be found of some interest: "Egg: length, .07 inch, slightly oval, surface smooth, colour pale yellowish-green. In from six to eight days the young larvæ made their appearance,

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the egg-shell
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