

now in use, or used as the foundation for purées or any thickened soups. When the bones look white and full of small holes, then, but not till then, the experienced cook knows there is nothing more to be got from them, and instead of stocking the pot, they may be used to stoke the kitchen fire.

A stock-pot to be really useful should be treated with all due circumspection. Not fat, no bread, nor any of the softer kinds of vegetables that break down in the boiling should go into it. These scraps can and should all be utilised, but not in the stock pot. Young cooks cannot be too strongly impressed with the idea that the utmost cleanliness and particularity are absolutely necessary in its use, or both it and its contents will get into bad odour in more ways than one. (1)

The Garden and Orchard.

(CONDUCTED BY MR. GEO. MOORE).

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO VEGETATION.

(Continued).

This beetle often does much harm to asparagus, especially in beds which have been established from one to three years, by eating and disfiguring the heads as they are formed, and later on by attacking the stems and seeds, of which it is particularly fond, both in the beetle and larval stages. In the beetle stage the insects bite the tender asparagus head while these are yet underground, or only just showing above the ground, making patches upon them, and spoiling their appearance for market. Later on the beetles eat the feathery shoots of the plants, as well as the large round seeds, to which they are very partial. A beetle will eat a considerable quantity of the tender shoots in the course of a day. The larvæ are most voracious and will leave the long stems of the plants completely bare of foliage when they are badly infested.

It was first noticed in Astoria, in Long Island, U. S. A., in 1858 and in four years the beetle had spread throughout the extensive asparagus beds of Long Island. It was well known previously

THE ASPARAGUS BEETLE (*Crioceris Asparagi*).



1. Beetle, line showing natural size; 2. Larva, magnified; 3. Egg, much magnified; 4. Asparagus plant, with larvæ, natural size.

in many parts of Europe, especially in France, where it was very detrimental to asparagus culture.

The beetle is quite curious (Fig. 1); its body is shiny black, with a blueish tinge

Upon each wing-case there is a row of yellow spots or patches which with the transverse bar form the figure of a cross, hence the French call it "Porte-Croix," the "Cross bearer."

Eggs are laid by the beetles early in the spring and are glued by their ends to the plants, usually in rows of three to five. Grubs or larvæ come forth in about 8 to 10 days, and immediately begin to feed upon the asparagus. The larval or grub state lasts fourteen days, or thereabout, and then the grubs fall to the earth, form a thin cocoon just under the surface and are transformed into the perfect beetle; brood succeeding brood until the middle of October. The larva (Fig. 2) is about one-fifth of an inch length, dark, olive green in colour. It is thick, fleshy, and shiny with three pairs of shiny black legs, and the extremity is prolonged to enable the insect to climb up and cling to the stems of the asparagus. The beetles which continue the species, survive the winter in dry, sheltered places, as beneath old

(1) A very good and very useful article, by A. L. O. S., i. e., "A Lady of Scotland." Ep.