

THE CANKER WORM.

THE Canker Worm is reported as being very destructive to apple orchards in some parts of the Niagara peninsula. A box of apple twigs already half denuded of foliage, was brought to this office on the 31st of May, accompanied by the anxious inquiry for some remedy. Of course we suggested spraying with Paris green, but the person claimed that he had already tried this without effect, and that in the summer of 1896, his orchard looked as if a fire had been through it, owing to the devastation of this worm.



FIG. 1150.—MOTHS OF CANKER WORM

Probably the Paris green was not put on in a sufficiently fine spray, and consequently ran off without covering the foliage, or perhaps it was not applied underneath the foliage, and the worm could find plenty of food free from poison, or perhaps not continued faithfully enough.

We also suggested the trial of a circle of sticky substance about the trunk, applied in early fall on a paper bandage, or a circle of cotton batting. The object is to trap the female moth before she lays her eggs. She is wingless (see Fig. 1150 b) and after coming out of her chrysalis, her first aim is to ascend the trunk of an apple tree, and meet the male moth (Fig. 1150 a) This plan is effective if persevered in, but must be kept up for a long time, for the females successively emerge from their cocoons during the mild days both



of the fall and the early spring ; it is consequently much more troublesome than spraying with Paris green, and is rather a prevention than a remedy. But it has been thoroughly demonstrated that Paris green will effect the destruction of the Canker Worm if persevered in. Of course when the worm has been neglected until it has become very numerous, it will require a large quantity of poisoned foliage to effect their complete route, and considerable expense. Prof. Bailey used 1500 gallons of Paris green water in seven days, on 240 trees, from May 10th to 17th in the work of destroying these worms in a badly infested orchard, but he was successful in utterly routing it at last

Professor Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, writes:—Notwithstanding the occasional complaints that Paris green is not a very satisfactory remedy for the Canker Worm, this is still the best remedy and the one that we have to rely on for the controlling of this insect. The chief thing to be remembered is

FIG. 1151.
See Cornell
Bulletin.