

Rural Economy.

MOTHS.

Seated by the window one warm spring twilight, with two children by my side, a little insect flew past us with a wavering, uncertain flight, as if it hardly knew which way to turn.

Up started the children at once and cried out, "It is a moth miller! a mother miller! It is two cents for every moth miller that you kill," and they began at once to chase the little creature here and there, slapping their hands together every now and then, while the persecuted moth was flying far above their heads.

A little insignificant thing it looked as it lay in his hand, with its dusty brown wings all crumpled, and its fragile body crushed, but it was one that all good housekeepers, knowing its destructive propensities, hunt with remorseless assiduity.

What shall I do to keep my furs, my carpets, my garments safe from the destructive creatures? is the anxious inquiry of the careful housekeeper. Simply keep them out of the way of the mother moth, who no longer eats herself, but whose whole business is to find some suitable substance on which to deposit her eggs, and which will furnish food and habitation for her young grub when it is hatched.

The moths who work such destruction to our various household properties, all belong to the Tinea family, and though very similar, are divided into the tapestry, fur, wool and cabinet moth, according to the substances on which they feed.

It first cuts a long hair from the cloth as a foundation for its case or coat, and places it on a line with its body; then it cuts another, and laying it parallel with the first, binds the two together with some silk of its own providing, for these tiny creatures, like many other caterpillars, are able to furnish this essential material.

When the case or coat is finished, the creature begins to eat; the substance about it furnishing food as well as garments, soon gives evidence of its destructive capacities. As it grows, the case becomes too small for it, and it must either build a new one or enlarge the old.

The color of the coat is always the same as the substance on which the caterpillar lives; and if you have ever unrolled a cloth eaten by the moths, you will see these little cases which the creatures have made, blue, green, red, or drab, as the material may be, and naturalists have learned how they enlarge their coats by moving them from one colored cloth to another, and the fresh hairs added and the new gores inserted were of different color from the original garment.

Various methods are tried to prevent the ravages of these destructive and insidious creatures. Turpentine, pepper, camphor, are supposed to be safeguards, but there is no real protection except in not exposing the article to the mother moth.

Moths come from moth's eggs, and if you protect yourself from them you have nothing to fear. Turpentine, camphor, or pepper might possibly deter the moth mother from laying her eggs on an article, though this is very doubtful, but no perfume affects the eggs.

In some great furriers' establishments the furs are never packed away, but left hanging in some cool room, and every few days are thoroughly brushed and beaten with rods to dislodge any moth's eggs which may have been laid in them, and this is said to be one of the most effectual

ways of preserving them. They are the terror of the naturalist as well as of the housekeeper and furrier, for they attack their stuffed birds and insects, and the grub will find food and coat in beetles, butterflies and other moths as coolly as if they were not his kindred.

Besides these clothes-moths, houses are sometimes infested with another, called the Tabby, which, strange to say, seems to divide its attention between two very different objects, books and butter, for it deposits its eggs and provides for its family with equal indifference in either.

But it is not alone in the house or granary that moths are destructive to man's possessions. The trees in the forest and the orchard, the shrubs and vegetables in the garden, are the prey of those who prefer vegetable to animal food.

The gold-tailed moth is a beautiful creature; "her body seems clothed in swan's down with flounces of golden fur," her delicate feet have white fur nearly to their toes, and her head a pair of gracefully curved, snow white plumes.

The brown-tail, lackey, ghost, and ermine moths have caterpillar children who eat our fruit, vegetables, flowers, and trees; but while looking at the soft, downy bodies, and beautiful wings, we forget their own previous life and mischievous offspring which they will have, and are half angry with the gloomy bat who drops down from the eaves of the barn at twilight and chases down the moths as a sweet morsel fit for his evening meal.

HANDLING BEES.

L. L. Fairchild writes in the Rural American, that "bees are as 'harmless as flies,' if rightly managed. Gaping crowds attend our county and State fairs, and look upon the doings of the 'bee men,' as something little less than marvellous.

There is no great secret in all this. Any man with a little tact, and a knowledge of some of the peculiarities of the bee, may do these things, and others still more surprising. The whole secret lies here: 'A bee gorged with sweets will not sting,' unless forced to it by hard usage.

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THE OKRA PLANT.

It is really surprising that this plant is not more abundantly found in our markets. It is quite easily cultivated, requiring no more attention than a crop of Indian corn. The pods are most delicious in soups, but many persons, ourselves not among the number, prefer them stewed.

C. W. HOWARD and JUDGE SHAPTEL, of California, have the largest dairy farm in the world. Their farm is on the seacoast, twenty-five miles north of San Francisco, and covers 71,000 acres, mostly choice dairy land, and bounded on three sides by salt water.

Scientific.

TORPIDITY OF ANIMALS.

They who are accustomed to witness merely the state of torpor into which many animals, both warm and cold-blooded, enter during the winter months of our northern latitudes, are hardly prepared for the fact that within the tropics a large number of other animals fall into an analogous condition through the heat and drought.

The "mud fish" (Lepidostiren) of the Gambia is one of the most remarkable animals which pass into a "summer sleep." Their habits in this respect have been long known, and Prof. Owen has described the peculiar structure of their respiratory organs, which enables them, though fishes, to breathe air, when water is no longer accessible, during the period of their confinement.

The whale captured off Wilmington, N. C. The Wilmington Journal gives the following facts relative to the capture of a whale below that city:—The whale recently captured is of the finback species, and was first seen about sunrise on Tuesday, March 20th, and soon after grounded on an oyster rock near Smithville.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SURGERY.

Even young children should be taught how to act in some of the accidents of life which require surgical skill. The arteries of the body carry the life's blood from the heart. If one of these be ruptured from any cause, and the blood is allowed to escape, the man will die within a few minutes, sometimes, when with the aid of a stick and a string or handkerchief, either of which are almost always at hand, his life might be saved.

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rats, or even the ashes of wood just from the stove or fire-place, because all these are strong alkalies, and hartshorn is only best because it is the strongest. There is no conclusive evidence to believe that burning or cutting out the bite has ever done the slightest good.

ALUMINUM PLATES FOR ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

The plates to which artificial teeth are attached are now made of gold, for costly sets, and of vulcanized rubber, colored with red sulphide of mercury, for cheap sets. The weight of gold is a serious objection to it, and yet the alternative of the lighter rubber is open to two objections, either one of which is serious.

THE WHALE CAPTURED OFF WILMINGTON, N. C.

The Wilmington Journal gives the following facts relative to the capture of a whale below that city:—The whale recently captured is of the finback species, and was first seen about sunrise on Tuesday, March 20th, and soon after grounded on an oyster rock near Smithville.

On their return, the tide having fallen considerably, the huge monster was discovered to be almost entirely out of the water. The first object was to kill him; accordingly a hole was cut in his side, and the old whaler ran a sword in, until his arm was almost imbedded in his body.

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McIntire & Brother,

1035 Chestnut Street, Would call attention to their large assortment of very choice

Silk Scarfs, Neck Ties, Scarf Pins, Sleeve Buttons, and Studs.

Also, to a stock of UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS

for Fall and Winter Wear, Consisting of Extra Heavy Merino, Saxony Wool, Shetland, Shaker Flannel, Canton Flannel (very heavy).

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Losses by fire having been promptly paid, and more than \$500,000 disbursed on this account within the past few years. For the present, the office of this company will remain at 415 WALNUT STREET.

But within a few months will remove to its Old Building N. E. CORNER SEVENTH AND CHESTNUT. Then, as now, we shall be happy to insure our policy at such rates as are consistent with safety.

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Loans on collateral security secured, 169,481 95 Premium notes secured by Policies, 217,504 28 Cash in hands of agents secured by bonds, 35,469 18 Cash on deposit with U. S. Treasury, 20,000 00 Cash on hand and in banks, 65,894 14 Accrued interest and rents due, Jan. 1, 10,228 60

INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1865, \$544,592 92. Losses Paid during the Year amounting to \$87,638 31.

LOSSES PAID PROMPTLY. DIVIDENDS MADE ANNUALLY, thus aiding the insured to pay premiums. The last DIVIDEND on all Mutual Policies in force, January 1, 1866, was FIFTY PER CENT.

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