Kural 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. But they were indetatigable hunters, and at last one of them caught the insect by a dexterous grasp, and claimed the promised reward.

A litte 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. A clothes' moth, whose young caterpillers eat our clothes, carpets, false hair, turs, books, preserved insects, stuffed birds, and destroy fabrics which it has cost man much labor and ingenuity to produce, with as much coolness as if all these costly things had been made that moth grubs might eat, grow fat, and turn into winged moths.

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 herselt, 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. This is no easy matter, for the mother moth is small and capable of inserting her body into very small crevices, into the cracks of drawers and boxes, and will not despise creeping through a key-hole if the key be left out. And when once in, she will do incalculable mischief, for the same instinct which teaches her to find the suitable substance, teaches her also to scatter her eggs at such distances as may give each grub sufficient space for food and lodging; so that a piece of woolen cloth exposed to the attacks of moths, is dotted all over with holes, and looks as if it had been riddled.

The moths who work such destruction to our various household properties, all belong to the Tinea family, and though very simi lar, are divided into the tapestry, fur, woo and cabinet moth, according to the substances on which they feed. As soon as the little creature is hatched, its first care is to make a case for itself, as it belongs to that class of caterpillars that will not eat unless they are covered, and it proceeds to form one at once out of the substance which surrounds it, which is as well adapted to its requirements as the most sumptuous garment that man ever devised for his artificial

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. It proceeds in this way, cutting off long hairs and if rightly managed. Gaping crowds attend binding them together, till the case is large our county and State fairs, and look upon of moisture from the surface of their bodies. enough to cover its body, which it measures for the purpose, and then finishes it

with a tapestry of silk. 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 creased in thickness as well as length, and fresh hairs at the top and bottom will not widen its coat, and so, like any good seamstress, it slits the coat on one side and inserts gores till it is easy and comfortable,

and corresponds to its growth. 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. "For the case it always selects the straightest and loosest pieces of wool, but for food it prefers the shortest and most compact, and to procure these it eats into your hands among them as much as you the body of the stuff, rejecting the pile or nap, which it necessarily cuts across, and nap, which it necessarily cuts across, and part. You may shake them down from ceases. If a vein is wounded or cut, apply been much worn."

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. Be sure first that she has not been before you and deposited her eggs on the material which you wish to preserve, then carefully wrap it in linen or cotton so tightly that you leave not a crack or a pin-hole for the agile creature to discover. Moths are supposed sometimes to be self engendered, but this, many persons, ourselves not among the like all similar notions, is a mistake, for insects come from eggs as plants from seeds, and the sudden appearance of insects in a place where they were not previously found, only proves that the eggs have been deposited there without our knowledge.

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 pertume affects the eggs. They are as indestructible as insects' eggs generally are cold does not harm them, excessive heat

only will kill them. nanging in some coor room, and every few days are thoroughly brushed and beaten with rods to dislodge any moths' 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 di vide its attention between two very differrent objects, books and butter, for it dewith equal indifference in either. Another hatched each grub takes possession of a single grain as its property, and makes a little hole in it, converting it into a habitation, the walls of which, like the sugar houses in the old fairy stories, are food and shelter at the same time; and when it feels that it is about to change its mode ef existence, it lines its hollow grain with silk and possible hole, but before it falls asleep it it that when it comes out of its shell it will be changed and have no jaws to cut with, and now before it wraps itself up it must make a half-cut doorway in the tough skin of the grain, so that while it seems whole,

make its way out into the air. But it is not alone in the house or granary that moths are destructive to man's possessions. The trees in the forest and ful creatures, which will flit about at twilight, daintily sipping a drop of dew or and day, and strip the leaves from the trees like a consuming fire

ture; "her body seems clothed in swan's some degree to imitate the gradual moisdown with flounces of golden fur," her tening of the earth by the rain. In due time reser delicate feet have white fur nearly to their three of the fishes broke open their coverings tion. toes, and her head a pair of gracefully and escaped. That they were not, even in curved, snow white plumes. She looks dried clay, wholly torpid, is shown by the like a most innocent creature who could do fact that, in one case in which the ball us no harm, and yet she is the mother of was fractured, if the lining membrane were the gold-tailed caterpillars who strip great | touched, the fish uttered a cry. After they oak trees of their leaves, and leave them came out, they were fed with worms, were naked and brown in the summer's green- well nourished, and grew. M. Dumeril has

The brown-tail, lackey, ghost, and ermine moths have caterpillar children who eat our fruit, vegetables, flowers, and trees; vors began to show signs of preparation for but while looking at the soft, downy bodies, and beautiful wings, we forget their own general surface of their bodies a large 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

HANDLING BEES.

L. L. Fairchild writes in the Rural American, that " bees are as 'harmless as flies," swarm of bees in his hat, shaking them formed a communication between the sack over his person, down upon the crowdnobody stung—perchance taking them into his mouth and belching them forth, is looked retirement no water can reach their gills; upon as little else than a necromancer. "There is no great secret in all this.

Any man with a little tact, and a knowlenlarge the old. It chooses the latter, and edge of some of the peculiarities of the bee, makes an addition by binding on fresh hairs may do these things, and others still more at the top and bottom. But it has in-'A bee gorged with sweets will not sting,' un- In this last respect they make a close apless forced to it by hard usage. Their appetite is so strong and sweet, that they cannot resist the temptation to gorge themselves, when opportunity offers. The beecharlatans take advantage of this fact in making their public exhibitions. This is the wonderful 'bee charm.' Not that which they have bottled up to sell to the credulous public at twenty-five or fifty cents per bottle, but simply causing their bees to gorge themselves. This may be done in heart. If one of these be ruptured from many ways. A little smoke will make any cause, and the blood is allowed to any them rush to their stores and fill their sacks. Close the hive, and by a little rap ping they will do the same thing. Do anything to excite their fears and the result of which are almost always at hand, his life to breathe. In his fury, he could throw a will be the same. Offer them sweetened water and they will partake freely. After they have filled themselves, you can run them-and they will take it all in good may even tear their hives and combs all to pieces, and not have a single 'sting for your pains."

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 scups, but number, prefer them stewed. They should be plucked when perfectly tender, consequently when only a third or half their natural growth, otherwise they are worthless for the table. In this state, too, they needed, they must be made below the can be strung up with twine, and hung up to dry for winter use, when they are a great delicacy. Abundant seed is produced in the pods allowed to remain upon the stalks. The seed, however, should be occasionally changed, otherwise the stalks will grow shorter. -- Germantown Telegraph.

C. W. HOWARD and JUDGE SHAFTER, of California, have the largest dairy farm In some great furriers' establishments in the world. Their farm is on the seathe furs are never packed away, but left coast, twenty-five miles north of San Franhanging in some cool room, and every few cisco, and covers 71,000 acres, mostly choice

Scientific.

TORPIDITY OF ANIMALS. They who are accustomed to witness

nerely 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 condiposits its eggs and provides for its family tion through the heat and drought. We have the authority of Humboldt, supported member of the Tinea family leaves her eggs by many observers, for the fact that in Vein wheat or barley, and as soon as they are nezuela and in the region of the Orinoco, both land and water turtles, the colossal boas, and many of the smaller species of serpents, lie torpid and motionless in the hardened ground throughout the hot and dry season." The Indians often seek them in their retreats, as articles of food, and Humboldt mentions that, on one occasion, a party in camp were astonished by a crocosleeps away the winter as a chrysalis. When dile's breaking up his summer quarters in it enters its grain it does so by the smallest the enclosure where they were sleeping, is too closely akin to the poisons of which and where the reptile had lain buried since provides for its exit. Mother nature tells the disappearance of the waters. We have metallic alloy in which gold is not the chief ourselves seen the workmen in Guiana. while digging trenches in a garden for planting vegetables, throw out several specimens of a species of eel (Synbranchus), which had buried themselves, as is their it can easily push it aside when it has habit, when the dry season approached, turned into a beautiful moth and wishes to and which, after an imprisonment of two or three months, would have found their way out again with the return of the rainy

The "mud fish" (Lepidosiren) of the the orchard, the shrubs and vegetables in Gambia is one of the most remarkable anithe garden, are the prey of those who pre- mals which pass into a "summer sleep." fer vegetable to animal food. Many of the Their habits in this respect have been long caterpillars which so annoy the farmer, and known, and Prof. Owen has described the make the work of many laborious days of peculiar structure of their respiratory or no avail, are the children of moths, and gans, which enables them, though fishes, gans, which enables them, though fishes, will one day be moths themselves; beauti- to breathe air, when water is no longer accessible, during the period of their confinement. M. Auguste Dumeril has rehoney, and seem to have no connection cently communicated to the Academy of with the great furry caterpillars from which | Sciences some interesting observations made they were transformed, and which eat night by himself on some of these animals at the Jardin des Plantes. Balls of perfectly dry clay containing "mud fishes" were placed The gold-tailed moth is a beautiful crea- in a tank, and water slowly added, so as in had the good fortune to witness, for the first time in Europe, the process of going into "summer quarters." The two surviquantity of thick and viscid mucus, and soon after by burying themselves in the soft mud at the bottom of the tank. The water was then drawn off to the level of the down the moths as a sweet morsel fit for his evening meal.—E. C. J. in Student and the course of time the mud became hard and cracked, and the moisture disappeared,

leaving them in their dry case of earth. After about seventy days they were exhumed alive, each surrounded by a sort of cocoon formed of the hardened mucus secreted by their skin, and serving as a protection against the too great evaporation enclosing the fish and the outer air. During their swim-bladders, however, receive blood diverted by a special arrangement from the gills, and thus act like true lungs, which they in fact are. Thus we have a fish which is a water-breather at one period of proach to the class of reptiles with which they have sometimes, though on insufficient grounds, been identified. The Nation.

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 cape, the man will die within a few minutes, sometimes, when with the aid of a stick and a string or handkerchief, either in the leg or arm, and there is no string at hand, tear a strip from any part of the clothing, tie it loose around the limb, pass please—if you are careful not to injure the stick between the skin and the strip, The head is about one-third of the entire and twist it around until the bleeding length. The jaws are 16 feet long on either their combs over your own person, or that the dust from a tea canister or common tail is about 12 feet wide, and serves kim of others, and they will not resent it. You cobweb: or even without these, wrap a strip of cotton cloth around moderately tight, and then another piece around that if the bleeding does not cease, let cold water run on the wound until it does, or until a physician arrives. But it is of vital importance to remember that the artery sends out blood by spurts or jets, and of a bright red character. If the blood comes from a vein, it flows slowly and evenly, and is of a dark red. But these directions will do no good, unless it is spe-cially noted that if the blood comes from an artery, the application of the string must be made above the wound, that is, between the wound and the heart; if a vein has been wounded, and the same appliances are wound, or between the wound and the extremities. If an artery is cut in a part of the body

where a string cannot be applied, hard pressure with the thumb at a spot about where the string would have been applied.

might save life. If stung or bitten by insect, snake or animal, apply spirits of hartshorn very freely with a soft rag, because it is one of the strongest alkalies, and is familiar to most persons. The substance which causes the so called poison from bites or stings, is, as far as ascertained, certainly acid. Hence the hartshorn antagonizes it in proportion to the promptitude with which it is applied. If no hartshorn be at hand, pour a cup of hot water on a cup of cooking soda or sala-

ratus, 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. The proof adduced to show that they have been effectual, is wholly of a negative character, and therefore not decisive - Watchman and Reflector.

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 rubber plates are thick, take up room in the mouth, and feel hot; and, secondly, the red coloring matter mercury is the base. Plates made of any ingredient are entirely inadmissible. A pure metal is very desirable for this use, and aluminum seems to be very suitable in many respects. It is strong enough is not discolored by sulphuretted hydrogen, nor acted upon by any acids likely to be found in the mouth; the metal itself and its compounds are perfectly harmless, and cannot become poisonous by any transformations; it is eight times lighter than gold, being only two and a half times heavier than water; lastly, it has no taste, and keeps very clean in the mouth. The price of aluminum should be, according to Deville, about the same as that of silver, weight for weight, or one-fourth that of silver, bulk for bulk. The labor required in working aluminum is, however, much greater than is generally bestowed on rubber work, and the use of the metal in dentistry has been patented in this country, so that aluminum plates are not likely to be very cheap. There is no good solder for aluminum, so that all joints in plates are made with rubber, previously filled with powdered aluminum, which imparts to the rubber a metallic lustre and general approximate resemblance to the metal itself. - The Na-

THE WHALE CAPTURED OFF WIL-MINGTON, 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. He got clear, however, and started up the channel, agitating the water more than an ordinary steam boat. He shortly afterwards run aground again this time opposite to the residence of Mrs. Stuart.
Mr. Warren, a gentleman in Smithville,
fired at him while in this position, but he appeared perfectly regardless of the shot, and extricating himself again, started up the channel. A small schooner, named the Planet, then started in pursuit, and tound him stuck on Snow's Marsh, opposite Fort Fisher, but on coming up with him it was discovered that he had again succeeded in extricating himself, and was making directly the doings of the 'bee men,' as something As they entered the mud they left behind for the schooner. This movement on the little less than marvellous. A man with a them a tubular trail of mucus, which part of the whale caused a great deal of which was immediately put about and all haste was made from the scene of action; but on proceeding a short distance, they observed that the whale, who was probably as badly frightened as the crew, had also changed his course, and was making all speed in an opposite direction, and was in a short time seen to run ashore near the

> place where he had just gotten off. A small boat was sent to reconnoitre his position. Finding him fast aground, and the tide falling, the schooner proceeded to Smithville to get the assistance of the sloop Flash, and also to obtain the services of a gentleman residing in Smithville, who had had several years' experience in the whaling business.

On their reture, 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 imbeded in his body. His heart was eventually pierced, but even then it was nearly two hours before he had ceased might be saved. If the severed artery is stream of water six inches in diameter, fully a hundred feet high. His dimensions were ascertained to be as follows: 56 feet long, and 27 feet in circumference. side, and 9 feet wide across the throat. The as a weapon. He is only about half grown, and weighs 35 tons, or 72,000 pounds.

To give some idea of his immense weight, it is stated that even after the upper jaw and skull were cut away it was impossible, owing to the immense weight, to get the under jaw on the deck of the schooner, so it must remain in the water until the desh decays, before the bone can be saved.

The carcass would have made 60 barrels of oil, if facilities could have been obtained for cutting and trying up the blubber. As it is, only about 25 barrels, or 800 gallons,

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