BUGS THREATEN TROUBLE.

CONDITIONS FAVORABLE THIS YEAR TO INSECT PESTS.

Several of Them Have Already Appeared in Larger Numbers Than in Several Years—Apple and Cherry Trees Attacked—Enemies of Shade Trees in Cities—Remedies in Use.

"The meteorological conditions of the past winter seem to have been favorable to the multiplication of insect life," says Prof. J. A. Lintner, the State entomologist. "Several of our common insect pests have appeared in larger numbers than in many preceding years.

"Among the earliest to intrude itself upon general notice has been the common apple-tree tent caterpillar. According to accounts received it has has not been so abundant in a number of years past. The foliage of many orchards has been injured to such an extent as greatly to impair the fruitage unless the thousands of caterpillars—at times from twenty or more nests on a single tree—have been destroyed while they were yet young. This serious destruction could have been easily prevented by cutting off the egg clusters from the tips of the branches while the trees were leafless, or twisting out the web nests from the forks of the branches in the morning or evening when the caterpillars occupy them and crushing them under foot.

"The white-marked tussock moth is a notorious pest of several of our shade trees in cities especially where it occurs in

TWO BROODS EACH YEAR,

as in the city of New York and southward. If the remedy is adopted of collecting its snow-white egg clusters from the trunks of trees, fences, beneath window sills and wherever the cocoons are placed, while they are readily seen and before they become discolored with age, the continued defoliation of our shade trees may be largely prevented.

"The army worm, which was more extensive than usual in its distribution last year throughout the State of New York and neighboring localities if past records of the insect are to be relied upon, will not appear in very destructive numbers in the localities then infested during the present year. Its parasitic enemies will have kept it in check.

"The spring canker worm, which for a long time has been so destructive in the Eastern States, is multiplying in the State of New York. It is not a difficult insect to control, through spraying the foliage of infested trees with Paris green and water as soon as the young caterpillars make their appearance. Later the poison is less effective, and a much stronger mixture is required to kill the nearly mature larvae.

"The elm-leaf beetle, is continuing its spread with rather slow but steady progress over the region in New York where climatic conditions favor its existence. For the past two or three years it has been destructive in Albany, having already killed a large number of our introduced elms, and has extended northward along the Hudson River Valley. In all probability it will soon be heard from in the central and western counties of the State. Thorough spraying with Paris green in water for killing the larvae when they first appear, and, later, the application of kerosene or hot water when the larvae descend the trees for pupation, are the best means of protection from the ravages of this pest.

"The asparagus beetle, which has for a number of years past been confined to portions of territory near the sea coast, is now

EXTENDING INWARDLY,

and has recently invaded the more southern and New England States and eight or ten of the western counties of New York. Its multiplication should not be permitted, for it is not difficult to destroy it by the use of air-slacked lime dusted on the young plants, and now allowing the insect to develop upon the mature plant.

"Several of the western counties of New York have suffered severely during the past three or four years from the ravages of grasshoppers. Very serious losses have been suffered to grass and other crops from the remarkable abundance of these creatures. It is hoped that they will not appear so destructively in the present year; but should they do so, they should be met with the best known remedies against these injurious pests, as destroying the egg masses by ploughing, spraying the young larvae with kerosene emulsion, collecting them with the aid of 'hopper-dozers,' or poisoning them with the bran mash used for the purpose.

"The cherry tree aphis, has been unusually abundant this spring. The curling of the leaves shows its presence, and is an intimation that its excessive multiplication should at once be checked, by applying so as to reach the insects on the under side of the leaves, a spray of kerosene emulsion or strong tobacco water.

"A comparatively new bark louse has been introduced from Europe, probably within the last fifteen years, which, from its rapid multiplication and spread, threatens to become quite injurious to several of the species of elms both native and introduced. It is known as Gossyparia ulmi, and may be recognized from its occurrence in clusters on the lower side of the limbs, and by its dark body about one-tenth of an inch long when attaining its growth, being surrounded with a ring of whitish excreted waxy material which covers its outer margin, and also extends upward to a greater or less degree between the joints of the body. Its presence may often be detected by the abundant secretion of honey dew, which blackens the sidewalks beneath as well as the limbs on which they are clustered. If taken in hand in time, this new pest may be controlled by spraying with kerosene emulsion.

"Judging from all indications, the present year gives promise of unusual insect depredations, and calls for increased vigilance and activity on the part of farmers, fruit growers, and cultivators of special crops for protection from their many insect enemies."

A VETERAN IN A POORHOUSE.

Joseph Deakin Says He Cut off an Enemy's Head with a Sabre Stroke in India.

In the county poorhouse at Onondaga Hill, near Syracuse, N. Y., is a man who boasts of having performed the same feat attributed in a recent cable despatch to Col. Mahmoud Bey of the Turkish army, who is said to have cut off with one stroke of his sabre the head of a Greek officer.

The man is Joseph Deakin. He is 83 years old, and has been in the poorhouse two years. He was born in Pontpool, Monmouthshire, South Wales, and the early part of his life was spent in the coal mines. On June 15, 1842, he enlisted, and, after seeing service in various parts of the British empire, served through the Crimean war. During one engagement Deakin suddenly found himself confronted by three stalwart Russians, who were advancing upon him with fixed bayonets. He parried their thrusts for a time, when help came in the form of Martin Haley, the funny Irishman of the regiment. Haley made a rush at one of the Russians and pinned him slick as a whistle on the end of his bayonet, and Deakin himself took care of one of the others. The third man ran away. Deakin had three front teeth knocked out by one of the fellows, and a little while afterward a bullet struck him in the chest and kept him at

THE GRAVE'S EDGE

for a couple of weeks. When Sebastopol had been taken he went with his regiment to Malta, and thence to Gibraltar. Then came an order to start for Bengal and join the thousands of troops England was sending out to quell the Sepoy rebellion. Upon his arrival in Calcutta a cavalry company was wanted, and although Deakin had always fought on foot he offered his services.

"We marched to Lucknow," said Deakin, "and there we got hold of a lot of old plugs of horses and began to get in shape for the attack on the rebels. We started up country in a few days to a town called Capree and struck a band of 800 rebels. We waded right into them, and when we got through there wasn't enough of them left to tell the story. It was in this fight that I cut off a native cavalryman's head while going at full speed.

In the front rank of the enemy, just as we were getting into fighting position, two of the enemy came rushing straight at me, one on each side. I got rid of the first all right, for he did not quite reach me. The other fellow rose in his saddle and made a swing at my head. I wasn't very green with my sabre, and I warded off his blow. His sword took off a piece of my elbow cap, but I didn't know it at the time. As he was passing me I saw my chance to get in the great sabre cut. I brought in my arm backward and took him on the neck. I sliced his head off as neat as a carrot and it rolled to the ground. I swear to you as I am a living man that the horse with his headless rider went for fifty yards before the man's hands let go the reins and the body tumbled to the ground."

At the close of the rebellion Deakin returned to England by way of the Cape of Good Hope and was discharged.

HE RECEIVED TWO MEDALS

for service in the Crimea, but these he lost one night when he was out for a high old time shortly after his return home. Deaken says he has a medal due him for his service in India, but he does not expect ever to get it. He shows seven scars of wounds received while in the service. The most serious of these is an injury to his kneecap, which was smashed by a flying shell, and has brought on rheumatism that has made him a cripple of late years. Besides this he has a bullet mark on his breast, a shortened funny bone where the sabre of the Indian struck him on the elbow, three front teeth which are false, and a scar over his eye, the result of a premature explosion of a mine near Balaklava.

Deakin went to the United States in 1863 and first lived at Watertown. He went into what was probably the fiercest battle of his life when he picked out a pretty little girl of 16 at Port Byron and asked her to be his wife. He was 40 years old at that time. They had five children, but everything did not run smoothly and they separated. Deakin draws $65 a year pension money from the English Government. This he received first one year ago. He thinks he is entitled to back pay.

"If I could get that," said he reflectively, "I would have about $2,500, and I would not have to worry the rest of my life and live on other people's charity."

AN OFFICIAL RAT-CATCHER.

Paris boasts of an official rat-catcher. He has served his town in this capacity for over thirty-five years, and he tells with pride that during that time he has caught unaided by a trap, over 1,000,000 rats with his own hands. He is extremely proud of his profession and on his card is emblazoned a crest formed of two rats rampant. Now-a-days the labors of the strange man are not particularly remunerative, but during the siege the official rat-catcher made a small fortune; then not only the common folk, but the purveyors of the great restaurants were only too glad to a pay a franc for a well-fed rodent. Indeed, at some times the price of a plump rat ran up to 3 francs, or about 60c. The official rat-catcher and his assistant search out their victims in the famous Paris sewers, and he frequently sells his tiny animals to people who are fond of turning the creatures together and betting on their abilities to fight.

WOMEN'S WORK IN DIPLOMACY.

Examples of lady diplomatists are so few that the number may almost be counted on the fingers. One of the earliest diplomatic missions conducted by a woman was that of Margaret, daughter of the Emperor Maximilian I., who, in the year 1508, when she was widow of Duke Philibert, of Savoy, concluded the well-known league of Cambray. These negotiations she appears to have carried on not only in the name of her imperial father, but also in that of King Ferdinand of Spain, while Cardinal Amboisi negotiated for the King of France and the Pope. By her tact and cleverness Margaret succeeded in arranging this treaty, the result of which was to almost annihilate the Republic of Venice. When Francis I. of France was the prisoner of Charles V., after the battle of Pavia, his sister, Marguerite of France, widow of the Duc d'Allencon, was especially sent by the King's mother, who held the regency, on a diplomatic mission to the Emperor in Madrid. The object of this mission was to obtain the relief of Francis, nor is it improbable that the threat to resign the crown of France, which the French King made, was a diplomatic stroke suggested by the Princess. This threat brought the Emperor to reason, the treaty of Madrid was signed, and Francis recovered his liberty.

The famous peace of Cambray, which was signed in 1529, is known by the name of the "Ladies' Peace," because two ladies were the negotiators. These were Margaret of Austria, Duchess Dowager of Savoy, aunt of Charles V., and Louise, the mother of Francis I. They agreed on an interview at Cambray, and being lodged in two adjoining houses, between which a communication was opened by means of a door, met together without ceremony or observation, and held daily conferences, to which no person whatever was admitted. "As both were profoundly skilled in business," says Robertson, "thoroughly acquainted with the secrets of their respective courts and possessed with perfect confidence in each other they soon made great progress toward a final accommodation, and the embassadors of all the confederates waited in anxious suspense to know their fate, the determination of which was entirely in the hands of those illustrious negotiators." In the reign of Henry IV. we are told France sent an embassadress to Constantinople.

Wicquefort, in his well-known work, "The Embassador and His Functions," mentions the diplomatic missions of Eleanor, Queen of France, and Marie, Queen of Hungary, who, in 1537, concluded at Bonnecy a three months' armistice in the names of Charles V. and Francis I., whilst amongst other female plenipotentiaries we may mention the Duchess of Orleans, who negotiated the treaty between France and England, which in Charles II.'s time detached the latter country from its alliance with Holland. But perhaps the two best examples which history furnishes of embassadresses are those of Aurora, Countess of Konigsmark, whom Augustus the Strong sent to Charles XII. of Sweden, and La Marechale de Guelbriant, embassadress of Louis XIV. Marie Aurora von Konigsmark was born in 1666 at the Agothenberg, near Strade. This lady, who was renowned for her beauty and wit, lived for several years on the most intimate terms with King Augustus, but eventually was nominated abbess of the imperial foundation of Gredlingburg. Whilst an inmate of the abbey Augustus was hard pressed by the King of Sweden, and was not only unable to oppose him with an adequate force, but could not even pay the small body of troops which he possessed.

Upon hearing of the evil times which had fallen upon her whilom lover, the countess hastened to Dresden, in order, if possible, to rouse the King to action. She found him given over to sloth and intemperance, and so utterly demoralized that he seemed unable to take any step for his own protection. The lady then resolved to go herself to Charles XII., and Augustus gave her a secret mission to the Swedish King. Charles, however, who was a woman-hater, and of unpolished manners, bluntly refused to receive her. But the countess was not going to give up without a struggle. After travelling about the town for several days she contrived to catch his Majesty in camp. She alighted from her carriage and delivered to him an address, to which the King made no reply save by bowing and riding on. At length the Minister, Count Piper, obtained permission to invite the Countess to a court banquet an invitation which the lady accepted conditionally upon her having a special seat at the table. Charles, however, who had allowed her to be invited only with a view to insulting her, ordered that she should be placed below all the other ladies, adding, by the way of explanation, that an ex-mistress could claim no better seat. This was too much for the countess, and, bitterly disappointed at her failure, she returned home, and from the seclusion of the abbey poured forth numerous bitter satires and lampoons upon King Charles, none of which, in all probability, did he ever set his eyes on.

When King Ladislaus IV., of Poland, lost his first wife, Cecilia Renata, of Austria, in March, 1644, he selected a new consort soon after in the daughter of the deceased Duke of Mantua, Marie de Gonzaga, Duchesse de Nevers. The marriage contract was signed by Louis XIV., at Fontainebleau, September 30, 1645, and November 6, in the same year, the marriage ceremony took place at the Palais Royal, at which the King of Poland was represented by his envoy. On the bride's return to Poland Louis gave her as companion La Marechale de Guelbriant, whom he also expressly appointed as his embassadress to King Ladislaus. All writers are agreed in speaking of her skill and tact in diplomatic negotiation, and on this mission which she was sent she had ample scope in which to display her abilities. It was said that the Princess whom she accompanied was one of the loveliest women of her age, and scandals hinted that she left several lovers behind her at the French court. These reports, no doubt grossly exaggerated, had reached the King of Poland, who had almost made up his mind to refuse to accept her as his wife. As an excuse, he pretended that he was too ill to receive her, and insisted upon her immediate return to France.

On this occasion Mme. de Guelbriant displayer her undoubted diplomatic abilities. She managed to overcome all the difficulties which surrounded her at the Polish court, and succeeded in imbuing the King's mind with a staunch conviction of his consort's virtue. Eventually, the King agreed to take her under his roof, in spite of the many attempts which were made in influential quarters to induce him to adhere to his first intention. The embassadress appears, moreover, to have gained the friendship of the King, and he gave orders for her to be treated at court with every honor. That she considered herself a member of the corps diplomatique, may be gathered from her claiming precedence of Prince Charles, the King's brother—a claim which Ladislaus decided in her favor; while on her journey through Poland all the honorary distinctions due to embassadors were paid to her. Whether, in the future, now that women are invading the domains of men, Ministers will open the door of diplomacy to women, and embassies rejoice in embassadresses, female charge d'affaires and first secretaries it is impossible to predict; but since the death of Mme. Guelbriant, if we except the case of Chevalier d'Eon, who was thought by many to be a woman, embassadors and envoys have invariably been chosen from the masculine sex.

LAST OF THE MAIL COACH GUARDS.

Old Nobbs Blew the Horn on the Exeter Coach for Fifty Years.

The last of the old English mail coach guards, Moses James Nobbs, has just died. His reminiscences ought to prove interesting. He became a post-office guard somewhere in the thirties, and when he retired, five or six years ago, was believed to be the only remaining one of the forty who were scouring the country when he entered the service. At the end of his postoffice career Nobbs was at Paddington Station, and his duty was to get off the mails for the west of England.

It was very amusing to hear the old man recall his earliest recollections of the introduction of railways. He was asked if the coach guards were not in a great fright about them when railways first came up.

"Not a bit, not a bit," said the old fellow. "Didn't care a button for 'em; we never believed they'd come to anything. We used to laugh at 'em, and we all believed that our coaches 'd run 'em down."

He would tell proudly of the great achievement of the early part of his career when he took his mails from London to Exeter, a distance of 176 miles, in 16 hours and 20 minutes—an average of nearly eleven miles an hour all the way through. The old man's services ran back some years before the introduction of the penny post and he remembered very well the days when all the letters going out of London for Exeter and all the places on the road would go in the hind boot of his coach, and three or four bags on the top. He used to say that he had many a time set out with only two or three hundred pounds of letters, and he lived to start out the London mail to the west with six or seven tons.

It was the railways that made the penny post possible, Nobbs used to say, and fifty times the old coach service of which he used to be so proud as a young man, could not have done the work. Nobbs had all sorts of curious adventures. He would recall the bitter nights when he had to pass over Plinlimmon in tempests so terrible that they used to open the coach doors to lessen the pressure and so prevent the vehicle from being blown clear over. He was often upset, but managed to come out on top, and though often challenged by highwaymen was always successful in scaring them off.

A SISTER'S LOVE.

A sister's love is one of the very sweetest flowers planted by God in the heart of a girl. It is born of filial sympathy and confidence, and ripens into a spiritual love different from any other affection. Powerful as is the influence of a mother, there have been innumerable cases where the presence of a sister's sweet and tender love, or the memory of a sister's holy affection, has been the saving grace of a brother's life. The sister's life in the home often formulates the brother's estimate of her sex. A sister can have a softening influence upon a brother where everything else fails. She raises his opinion of women by her actions toward him.

"THE SMALLEST HUMAN ATOM."

Recently the Liverpool Coroner held an inquest on the body of a child named Catharine Elliott, who was alleged to be the smallest living human atom in existence. The child was born in Glasgow, 10 weeks ago, and was being exhibited in Liverpool, the parents receiving £3 10s per week. The child weighed 20 ounces, was 12 inches high, and the palm of her hand, was only the size of a shilling. The parents disclaimed any desire to limit the growth of the midget, which had been guarded from cold, well nurtured and had never a day's illness before Saturday last, when, according to medical advice, it died suddenly from natural causes. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

A CHOICE OFFERED.

Is the boss in? he asked of the bookkeeper.

Which one do you wish to see, replied the bookkeeper; the office boy or the typewriter?

A TREAT FOR CHILDREN.

HOW SOME LITTLE ONES IN EUROPE SPEND THEIR HOLIDAYS.

A Novel Plan Adopted—Those Weary of City Life May Find Ample Amusement in the Country—Educational Results.

Philanthropists, and especially those who are interested in the welfare of children, will be glad to hear of a novel scheme which is being adopted in Europe, the object of which is to provide ample physical comfort as well as intellectual entertainment for children during the most trying season of the year.

A lady, whose name has not been divulged, was the first to broach the idea, and so warmly was it welcomed by the public and the press that she at once formed an organization and soon was enabled to make hundreds of children happy. The home is in Denmark, and an account of her good work spread so rapidly that others throughout Scandinavia followed her example, and it is even said that a similar plan is likely to be adopted in France and Germany.

This is what she does:—She obtains in each town or city from the parents or teachers a list of those children who would like to spend their vacations in the country who would be benefited by country life. This alone is an arduous undertaking, and at first several days were spent in obtaining the necessary names. Now, however, the work is so systematized that all the names are obtained in a day or two. The parents or teachers know all about this benevolent institution and forward the children's names even before they are asked for them. This is one part of the work. The other part is done in the country and the plan adopted is the same as in the cities. The farmers and other country residents are asked if they would like to have their children spend their vacations in the cities. Naturally most, if not all, of them reply in the affirmative. Their children are weary of country life and will delight in seeing the great sights of the cities. So they consent, and on a given day their little ones go to the cities and the city children go to the country.

MANY LESSONS LEARNED.

There is, so to speak, an exchange of children. The farmers and villagers take the city children into their homes and act as their hosts during the weeks of vacation, and in return the little ones from the country find temporary homes with the parents of the city children. In the country the children amuse themselves as country children have always amused themselves, and in the city the children spend a good deal of their time in seeing the notable sights. Thus the little ones from the country are educated as well as entertained.

They see now famous buildings, splendid monuments and spacious parks, which they might not have seen for many years, had they not obtained this chance of spending their vacation in the city. And many goodly lessons are also learned by the little ones who now see and enjoy the country for the first time. The birds, the brooks, the flowers, the trees, the patient domestic animals, teach them many things which they could never learn in the city.

All the children, too, learn to become independent and self-reliant. They journey from their homes alone, being provided with railroad tickets, which are pinned on their little jackets. The guards on the trains see that they are furnished with every comfort, and they are just as safe as though they were attended by a legion of parents and teachers. Their hosts meet them at their destination, and quickly make them feel at home. When the holiday season is over, all return to their various homes, refreshed in mind and body and glad at heart that the long weeks of vacation, which otherwise might have been so dull, have been spent so pleasantly.

LIVING ON A DOLLAR A WEEK.

Training School Boys' Success with the Aladdin Oven.

Four of the students of the local Young Men's Christian Association training school are experimenting in cheap methods of cooking, says the Republican of Springfield, Mass. About two months ago Dr. McCurdy, in one of his talks to the physiology class, spoke of the work done by Edward Atkinson in experimenting with different kinds of food in order to find out which is the cheapest and at the same time the most nourishing. One of the class became interested and read extensively on the subject. Not being satisfied with what others said he bought an Aladdin oven and with three other fellows began to experiment on himself. The Aladdin oven is an invention of Edward Atkinson, the well-known economist, whose idea was to cover an oven with asbestos in order to keep in the heat, and in this way to save fuel, space and time. With this oven the four young men began the experiment, which they now declare to be the "greatest thing out." They put whatever they want for breakfast into the oven the night before, regulate the heat according to directions, and when they get up in the morning breakfast is ready.

After breakfast the dinner is put into the oven, while the same is done after dinner for the supper. This long and slow method of cooking renders the cheaper cuts of meat tender and palatable, so that although they have lived well, and have eaten even more than usual their expenses have only been $1 each a week, which not only includes the food, but the fuel and the hire for the oven. One of the members of the faculty and his wife were entertained a few days ago with fine success. The guests politely pronounced the dinner to be the best cooked one they had ever eaten.