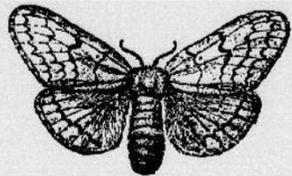


## IMPORTED NURSERY STOCK CARRY DESTRUCTIVE PESTS

Winter Nests of Brown-Tail Moth Brought to This Country From France—General Warning Given to Keep All Plants Under Strict Watch—Insect Exercises Deleterious Effect on Health.

(By C. L. MARLATT, Entomologist, United States Department of Agriculture.)  
Winter nests of the brown-tail moth, each filled with hundreds of young larvae, and occasional egg masses of the gipsy moth have been brought into the United States, the former in enormous numbers, during 1909-1910 on imported nursery stock, and the importations for the season 1911 are again bringing in these brown-tail moth nests. This infested stock, coming largely from nurseries in northern France, has been scattered widely over the United States east of the



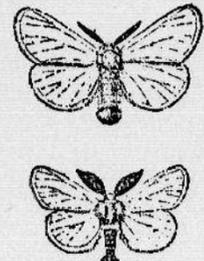
Female Gipsy Moth.

Rocky mountains, and while every effort has been made to trace these importations and inspect and disinfect them the probability of many unreported shipments or inefficient inspection is very great.

A general warning is therefore given to all users of such imported plant stock, namely, to nurserymen, fruit raisers, and purchasers of ornamentals for city or part planting, to keep all such imported stock under strict watch to see that these pests do not develop.

It is scarcely necessary to comment on the tremendous danger which the importations of nursery stock of the last three seasons have brought to this country. The enormous cost of the gipsy moth and the brown-tail moth in New England is now well known. Throughout the infested districts of New England orchards have been completely destroyed and forests largely obliterated, and even where woodlands and parks have been protected at an enormous expense their beauty and value have been vastly lessened.

Massachusetts has spent millions of dollars in an effort to control these pests, and with their spread to other states the work of control has been taken up in these also. The National government has been asked to come to the rescue, and is now appropriating \$300,000 a year in the mere attempt to check the distribution of these pests along the principal highways. Massachusetts and the other infested New England states are now spending more than a million dollars a year in control work. In spite of these efforts and this enormous ex-



The Brown-Tail Moth.

penditure the gipsy moth and the brown-tail moth are steadily spreading in New England and great damage is experienced from them yearly. Extermination is entirely out of the question, and all these expenditures must go on indefinitely at a probably increasing rate, unless some natural check by means of parasites can be brought about.

In addition to the great destructive-

ness of these pests to orchards and forests, their establishment in any suburban residential district means an enormous depreciation in property values, as is now illustrated about the city of Boston, and very notably lessens the attractiveness of coast or mountain summer resorts. The north shore towns of Massachusetts and lower Maine resorts have already felt this influence, and for such regions as the Catskills or Adirondacks the establishment of these pests would be most disastrous, inasmuch as control over such extended forested mountains is practically impossible.

When it is realized that these two pests have been widely distributed, on imported nursery stock, in 22 states during the years of 1909 and 1910, and are now coming in on imported stock from France and Belgium, the danger to the whole country is fully apparent, and this danger applies to every orchard and to every owner of private grounds and also to our entire forest domain. The tax from these pests, should they gain foothold throughout the country, as measured by the existing cost in New England, is almost beyond estimate.

In addition to the great monetary loss, the brown-tail moth exercises a very deleterious effect on health. The



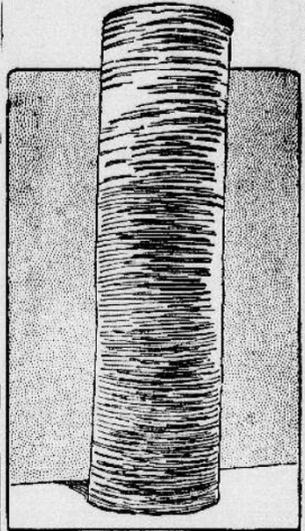
Winter Nest of Brown-Tail Moth.

hairs which cover the caterpillars of this moth are strongly netting, and not only are they so from accidental contact with the caterpillar which may fall on clothes, face, neck, or hands from an infested tree, but also from the myriads of hairs which are shed by these caterpillars when they transform to the chrysalis state. The latter fall and find lodgment on clothing, or collect on the face, neck, or hands, and frequently cause very disagreeable and extensive netting, the effects of which may last for months. Breathed into the lungs they may cause inflammation and become productive of tuberculosis. The brown-tail rash is well known throughout the regions infested in New England and thousands have suffered from it. All of the assistants who have been connected with the government work with these pests in the New England states have been seriously poisoned. Two of them have had to give up their work and go to the southwest to attempt to recover from pulmonary troubles superinduced by the irritating hairs of the brown-tail moth, and the death of one man employed on the work was due to severe internal poisoning contracted in field work against larvae. This insect is, therefore, a most undesirable neighbor, even if it were not responsible for great injury to orchards and ornamental trees.

## PRESSED WOOD IS NEW FUEL

Rapidly Becoming Popular in Southern California and Commands Good Prices.

Los Angeles.—In California, "pressed wood" is a new fuel that is rapidly becoming popular. Fuel for domestic purposes has always commanded exorbitant prices in southern California, bituminous coal selling at retail at from \$12 to \$14 per ton, and wood cut to stove lengths at about the same figure per cord. In the high price of fuel, some inventive genius perceived the opportunity to win wealth from waste by utilizing a part of the enormous quantity of shavings and saw-



Pressed Wood for Fuel.

dust that is annually wasted, or at best used to poor advantage, in sawmills, planing mills and similar establishments. So he patented a machine for pressing shavings and sawdust into molds. A string through the center of the mold helps hold the material together, and the heavy pressure to which it is subjected accomplishes the rest. From the molds the "pressed wood" (as the product is called) comes out looking like a giant cannon cracker, 12 inches long and three inches in diameter. Owing to its compressed state, the wood burns slowly, but with intense heat, making it much more desirable for use in stoves than ordinary wood. It is claimed that its fuel value per ton is fully equal to that of the best grade of bituminous coal, while its cleanliness makes it preferable to coal. By the ton it retails at the same price as coal, and the favor with which it has been received by the public seems to presage a great future for "pressed wood" as fuel.

## IS BUILT FROM DRIFTWOOD

Novel House the Like of Which Does Not Exist in the Country.

Portland, Ore.—This novel house, the like of which does not exist in the country, was begun as a cabin in 1887. From a single room with low ceiling it has grown until it is now a good sized house of many rooms. The driftwood was gathered and worked into building material by unskilled hands, and later the furniture was made and the fences built of the same



No Nails in This House.

waste material. In the construction no nails were used, the joints being made by mortice, dove-tail and wooden peg. The furniture is constructed on the mission style, all the fastenings being of pieces of driftwood. With the exception of the windows and doors and the bedsprings, the house and its furnishings are composed of woods that have come from many sections of the country and perhaps many countries of the world. The novel building stands within a few feet of high tide mark on the Pacific ocean, a few miles north of the Columbia river.

## Confederate Engine Saved.

Atlanta, Ga.—The historic railway engine Texas, which did valiant service for the confederacy during the Civil war, will be preserved in a specially constructed building at Grant Park, in this city, according to resolutions adopted yesterday by the city council. The engine has been going to ruin on a spur track in this city.

## Receives Tins of Rats.

Ballina, N. S. W.—Tins of rats, preserved whole with their tails, were found in a packing case delivered by error to a resident of this city. It was afterwards found that the case was meant for a Chinese resident of the town.

## POETIC MEALS OF PERSIA

Delicacies Prepared for the Traveler Sound Like Banquets Described in Fairy Tales.

Persian delicacies prepared for the delectation of the traveler sound somewhat like the banquets described in fairy tales. It is suspected that the natives dine somewhat more prosaically; but what could be more tempting to the epicure possessed of poetic fancy than the following?

One of the best overtures to a way-side repast in Persia is a watermelon, not cut in slices, as is done by some neophyte, but eaten, like an egg, one end being cut off, and the contents eaten with a wooden spoon, the rosy fluid trickling all the time to the bottom, and affording a fragrant beverage when the first proceeding is completed.

As second course may be recommended a cold fowl, with slices of snake cucumber. For side dishes, the most refreshing are sour milk with chopped sage or rose leaves, also eaten with a pear wood spoon, or cucumber smothered in sour cream. In Faristan ice can be obtained to add to these cooling preparations, which may also be flavored with rose water.

For dessert, the most easily procured dainties are prepared cream or kalmak, flaked with sugar, fresh almonds, iced rose water sweetened with honey or rendered more fragrant with the aroma of mountain thyme and absinthe.

Many little additions, to complete the poetic phase of the repast, may be occasionally obtained, as a bunch of delicious grapes, suspended for an hour under the moistened frond of a date tree, figs served up in cream, dates lightly fried in olive oil, or apricot paste dissolved in fresh milk.—Harper's Weekly.

## The Thistle Travels Far.

Careful examination has been made of the heads of Canada thistle-downs in order to determine their effectiveness as parachutes carrying the seeds of the plant to great distances through the air. The results of this examination are quite remarkable.

Calculation shows that a thistle-down starting from an elevation of 20 feet in still air would require two-thirds of a minute to reach the ground. With a wind blowing 20 miles an hour it would be carried on the average about a fifth of a mile. The total surface exposed to the air in an average thistle-down is, on account of the great number of hairlets, a little more than one-third of a square foot. Another well known and very beautiful example of nature's parachutes is furnished by the light silken threads with the aid of which the little gossamer spider makes long aerial voyages.—Scientific American.

## This Congregation Was Punished.

The "Bluecoat Boys" of an older time had worse things to complain of than hard discipline and poor food. Since the day when "Christies hospital" erected was, a passing deed of pittle," they have had their grievances. And they were fated to hear probably the longest sermon ever preached from any pulpit. It was in 1671, and the preacher was Isaac Barrow. He subsequently published the sermon, and it runs to 230 pages. Its subject was "The Duty and Reward of Bounty to the Poor," and Tillotson has said of it that "it seems to have exhausted the whole argument and left no consideration belonging to it untouched." No one will be likely to quarrel with that statement. But there would have been some excuse for a school boys' strike in those days.—London Chronicle.

## White Snails Are Edible.

The large, whitish snail, found on the downs and chalk lands of Surrey and Sussex, is certainly eatable, though I should hesitate at the ordinary brown or striped hedgerow snail. It has been conjectured that these large white snails are in direct descent from the Roman importation of snails, which may very well be true. But the country folk will not eat them. A "foreign gentleman" was held in great scorn by certain villagers because he collected these snails, gave them a week's special diet and then ate them. Cooked with the right sauce the snail can be delicious. But don't forget the sauce. When you have hooked him out of the shell empty the liquor that remains in the shell into your mouth. It's delicious.—London Chronicle.

## Ravages of Pine Beetle.

A recent bulletin of the bureau of entomology of the department of agriculture calls attention to the ravages among pine trees of the southern pine beetle. Says the bulletin: "Its destructive work is indicated by the fading greenish brown and reddish brown foliage of patches of dying young or old trees, and careful examination should show galleries in the bark of the middle and upper portion of the trunk of dying trees and marks on the surface of the wood, which positively identify this insect as the cause of the trouble."

## Equivalent.

"I told Miss Charlotte I was going to bring her a box of caramels, and I couldn't tell for the life of me, whether she wanted them or not."  
"What did she say?"  
"She said, 'Oh, fudge!'"

## Pretty Fair Proof.

"Are they very much in love?"  
"I guess so; they send kisses to each other by telephone and stand waiting with their lips puckered if the report is that the wire is busy."

## CUSTOMS IN THE HERMIT KINGDOM



KOREAN BRIDEGROOM GOING TO HIS WEDDING

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are never liked about the house. They are certainly unpopular with persons who are habitual and intemperate users of alcoholic beverages. In Korea snakes live about the eaves of native houses and are not feared or disliked. The native legend about their introduction into the country is that a certain prince who was a drunkard ordered a shipload of them from India to be brought to the palace to drive away the evil spirits of drink that possessed him. In other words, to cure delirium tremens.

In most countries the horse is considered a better mount than the donkey. Not so in Korea. Here the meek and slow moving ass is regarded as the mount for a gentleman, and especially the man of fashion. In other countries progress is highly regarded, but the tortoise is the emblem of a dignified and desirable conservatism in "The Land of the Morning Calm," where the evening was equally calm and the middle of the day more so when the Koreans ruled the country.

Street signs are relied upon in the cities of other countries, and nowhere are they more used than in China, which formerly exercised a shadowy suzerainty over Korea and was her neighbor. But in Seoul they were not used at all before the Japanese came. In almost all other countries women are fond of going shopping and merchants strive to please them and to sell them something just as good if they haven't the article asked for.

How Shopping is Regarded.  
In Korea it is otherwise. The women regard shopping as a necessary evil, and the merchants keep their goods in closets instead of on counters and shelves and in show-cases. The merchant does not hustle for trade or argue for a sale. If the customer asks for something she is likely to be shown what the merchant has and told that he has nothing like what she wants. The shopkeeper is a fair emulator of the highly-respected tortoise that was the national emblem of conservatism during the halcyon days of the Hermit Kingdom when no diplomatic or trade relations were sustained with foreign countries.

In most countries retelling liquors it not regarded as a suitable avenue of activity for an aristocratic woman whose fortune has dwindled. In Korea a lady in distress may operate a saloon without fear of any social stigma resting upon her. And a bar is the only kind of shop she may keep with impunity. Her maid acts as barmaid, but the saloon is given space in the residence without injuring the tone of the establishment. A woman of social distinction may make shoes provided she makes such as the common people wear. To make shoes for her own class would remove her from that class.

Of the Hermit Kingdom, which was unknown such a short time ago, only a very small portion of the outside world had a glimpse before the Japanese began transforming a country in which breech loading cannon were cast centuries before gunpowder was known in Europe and which fought naval battles with ironclads more than three centuries before the "Yankee Cheesebox" eclipsed the glory of the Merrimack at Hampton Roads.