scribed as having a most dreary effect. These animals likewise dwelt in the precipitous sea-banks between Gunsgreen and Fairneyside. Below a place named Blaikie, once a moor, there are several holes in the banks, still called the Cat-holes, which were the head-quarters of the wild cats that prevailed there, while the surrounding tract lay unimproven, and tenanted by its wild game. It is now cultivated, and the cats extirpated; but it is only wituin a recent period that the last of them was killed.

I need scarcely advert to the impressions these animals have left in popular language, and familiar comparison. "To turn the wull cat," is to be able to hang from a transvrese beam by the hands and feet, and then recover the upright position. "She has een like a wull cat," is an expression much less flattering to rustic beauty, than the Grecks attributed to the empress of their mythology, when they bestowed on her the eyes of an ox!

Note on Remedies for the Turnip-Fly amongst the Ancients, and on the Turnip-Fly of New Holland, with Notice of a New Genus and Species of Diptera. By Mr. JAMES HARDY. (1849)

IN looking over my notes, I find that in my paper on Turnip Insects, I have omitted to state that the ancients, who, particularly the Romans, were well acquainted with the culture of the Turnip, had recourse to several of the expedients resorted to in modern times as preservatives against the "fly." Columella, for this purpose, recommended the dust of chambers or soot to be sprinkled with water, and mixed with the seed on the night previous to its being sown. He also mentions that, as a remedy against insects, Democritus directed that seeds should be anointed with the juice of the herb *sedum* (house-leek, or perhaps one of the stone-crops well known for their acrid properties). "This," adds he, "I have found to be true from experience. But as the sowing of this plant is not very great, I have more frequently used soot and the above-mentioned dust, and have thereby well enough secured the plants from injury. Palladius recommended the

spreading of the lees of oil, or soot from the chimney, as a remedy from the fly."—*Vide Bell's Rollin's Arts and Sciences*, p. 42.

It is deserving of notice, that among the insects described by Mr. Waterhouse, from the collections brought to this country by Mr. Darwin, is a *Haltica*, which is nearly identical with our Turnip-Fly, and is stated to be equally destructive in New Holland.—*Proceedings of the Ent. Soc. of London, 2d January*, 1837.

The Mining Grub, described at p. 339 of the present volume of the Club's *Proceedings*, having now completed its transformations, I am enabled to relate the subsequent stages of its history. The pupa is narrowish, elongate-oval, finely striated transversely, convex above, less so beneath, brown, darker at the tips and across the lines of the segments; the segments are pretty distinct, finely and closely wrinkled at the edges; some minute foveolæ run down the edges both below and above; the anterior end is compressed on the upper surface, and as it were scooped out, the hollow being margined on each side by a lateral keel, which, after occasioning the sides to protrude a little at this part, turns in and nearly converges behind; the keeled margin is slightly foveated beneath, and the compressed area has a space longitudinally elevated in the middle; the apex is sub-truncate, and consists of a roughish ridge, tipped at each end with a small tubercle produced into a fine divergent spine, which is bifid at the tip, and has at its base two minute spines placed in opposite directions; the posterior apex is somewhat narrowed, its two ends project in the form of small bluntish tubercles; exactly between these, but a little above their level, there is a stoutish prominence, which is surmounted by two ovate, sharp-pointed, spine-tipped, palish-coloured, divergent tubercles, which, as well as the process that bears them, point somewhat upwards; beneath the apex the slope is almost that of the under surface, and the anus is indicated by a slight tubercle, divided lengthways, situated behind a wrinkle. Length 1¼–1½ lines. The pupa is sometimes found in the chamber the Grub has excavated, but more frequently beneath the soil. The Fly appeared on the 3d of September, having been in the

pupa state about 21 days. It belongs to the genus *Drosophila* as at present constituted, which includes the well-known Cellar-fly, *Musca cellaris* of Linnæus, whose larva occurs in wine-casks and neglected paste; and other species whose larvæ are considered, and have in some instances been proved, to be either fungivorous or saprophagous. From the difference in habit, as well as an accompanying modification in character, I propose detaching it along with *D. graminum*, to which it is closely allied, from its present connection, and constituting a new genus to receive them. Its characters are the following:—

SCAPTOMYZA,* *Hardy MSS.*

Antennæ with the third joint parallelogrammic, with its tip rounded (lingulate); seta with a few long hairs, mostly on the upper side; face somewhat slanted, keel moderate; bristles of the mouth-rim rather scant and short; apex of the trunk dilated, palpi narrowish ovate, or sub-elliptical; head sub-triangulate, behind moderately transverse, sides obliquely sloped so as to narrow it anteriorly, which contraction slightly affects the fore part of the frontal band; front sparingly bristly; eyes sub-oval, finely downy; body elongate and narrowish; thorax somewhat longer than broad, subparallelogrammic, faintly glossy, the colouring striped; abdomen longish, narrowish, subconical; its tip in the female slightly compressed, oblique, with shining serrated plates beneath; wings nearly as in *Drosophila*, but not so broad; larva living as a miner on the parenchyma of leaves.

The species are:—

1. S. GRAMINUM. Drosophila graminum, *Fallen*, Geomyz. 8, 11. *Meigen*, Zweif. Ins. vi. 86. *Macquart*, Dipt. (Suites à Buffon) ii. 550.

"Thorace cinereo fusco-vittato; abdomine nigro; antennis pedibusque flavis." Long. corp. lin. 1. *Meig.*

The larva is subcutaneous in the leaves of the common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), of the Corn Cockle (*Lychnis githago*), of *Chenopodium album*, and of *Viscaria oculata*, and *Silene armeria* in gardens. Its operations are marked by a large shapeless blotch, with smaller winding galleries conducting to it.

* Σκαπτειν, to dig, to scoop out.

2. S. APICALIS, *Hardy MSS.*

Flava; thorace subferrugineo, albo-vix-micante, linea longitudinali, marginibusque lateralibus ferrugineis; meta-thorace Maris subcinereo; puncto verticis anoque nigris; pedibus concoloribus, apicibus tarsorum vix fuscescentibus; antennis flavis, seta nigra, sparse pubescente; alis hyalinis, nervis flavis. Long. corp. vix l. 1¼. Exp. alar. lin. 3.

Var. Dorso thoracis cinereo, lineis tribus longitudinalibus fuscis; scutello cinereo flavo-limbato; abdomine supernè fusco.

The larva mines the leaves of the Turnip and the Pea; and on the sea-coast, it is found as late as the end of October in those of the common Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and the Lady's fingers (*Anthyllis vulneraria*). It mines sometimes in companies of four or five; but in a small leaf, many of these desert the seat of the original colony, and commence a separate establishment. In some leaves the pulp is so completely dug away, that the upper cuticle can be separated entire. In the turnip, it sometimes, as elsewhere remarked, cuts out long channels down the stalks; but this office more particularly belongs to another Dipterous miner, whose history remains still to be written.

The ACARIDES *of Berwickshire Specifically Described.*

By GEORGE JOHNSTON, M.D., &c. (Continued from Page 316.)

20. TROMBIDIUM CURTIPES.

Tr. sanguineum pedibus palpisque clarioribus, corpore postice integro setis simplicibus brevissimis tomentoso. Long. ⅔ lin.—*Acarus sulcatus*, ruber, abdomine ovato rugoso; pedibus mediis brevioribus, *Mull.* Zool. Dan. prod. 187.—Trombidium curtipes, *Herm.* Mem. Apter. 26. pl. 1, fig. 4. *Walck and Gerv.* Insect. Apt. iii. 177.

DESC. Mite small, of a scarlet colour, with brighter legs, palpi and rostrum: *Body* elongate-quadrangular, depressed, shouldered in front, widely sinuated on the sides at the middle, rounded and narrower behind, tomentose; the back flattened, uneven with two transverse foveolate furrows and a foveola farther backwards: *Rostrum* triangular: *Mandibles* large, but not long, armed with very unequal chelæ, the external curved