

to run together in man and the lower animals. Thus white terriers suffer more than those of any other colour from the fatal distemper.⁷ In North America plum-trees are liable to a disease which Downing⁸ believes is not caused by insects; the kinds bearing purple fruit are most affected, "and we have never known the green or yellow fruited varieties infected until the other sorts had first become filled with the knots." On the other hand, peaches in North America suffer much from a disease called the *yellows*, which seems to be peculiar to that continent, and more than nine-tenths of the victims, "when the disease first appeared, were the yellow-fleshed peaches. The white-fleshed kinds are much more rarely attacked; in some parts of the country never." In Mauritius, the white sugar-canes have of late years been so severely attacked by a disease, that many planters have been compelled to give up growing this variety (although fresh plants were imported from China for trial), and cultivate only red canes.⁹ Now, if these plants had been forced to struggle with other competing plants and enemies, there cannot be a doubt that the colour of the flesh or skin of the fruit, unimportant as these characters are considered, would have rigorously determined their existence.

Liability to the attacks of parasites is also connected with colour. White chickens are certainly more subject than dark-coloured chickens to the *gapes*, which is caused by a parasitic worm in the trachea.¹⁰ On the other hand, experience has shown that in France the caterpillars which produce white cocoons resist the deadly fungus better than those producing yellow cocoons.¹¹ Analogous facts have been observed with plants: a new and beautiful white onion, imported from France, though planted close to other kinds, was alone attacked by a parasitic fungus.¹² White verbenas are especially liable to mildew.¹³ Near Malaga, during an early period of the vine-

⁷ Youatt on the Dog, p. 232.

⁸ 'The Fruit-trees of America,' 1845, p. 270: for peaches, p. 466.

⁹ 'Proc. Royal Soc. of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius,' 1852, p. cxxxv.

¹⁰ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1856, p.

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¹¹ Quatrefages, 'Maladies Actuelles du Ver à Soie,' 1859, pp. 12, 214.

¹² 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1851, p. 595.

¹³ 'Journal of Horticulture,' 1862, p. 476.