

## The Cabbage-caterpillar

precaution is needed: even though the mouth leaves a large interval free, the swarm hastens into the lighted chamber. All that remains to be done is to close the apparatus before moving it. The observer is now in control of the multitude, without appreciable losses, and is able to question it at will.

We will begin by asking:

"How do you manage to lodge your germs inside the caterpillar?"

This question and others of the same category, which ought to take precedence of everything else, are generally neglected by the impaler of insects, who cares more for the niceties of nomenclature than for glorious realities. He classifies his subjects, dividing them into regiments with barbarous labels, a work which seems to him the highest expression of entomological science. Names, nothing but names: the rest hardly counts. The persecutor of the *Pieris* used to be called *Microgaster*, that is to say, little belly: to-day she is called *Apantales*, that is to say, the incomplete. What a fine step forward! We now know all about it!

Can our friend at least tell us how "the little belly" or "the incomplete" gets into the