

showed signs of life, but they soon dried up and died. By confining female specimens (especially such as are in a damaged condition) of our rarer moths in boxes eggs may often be obtained; and from these, with attention and care, the whole history of the species may be worked out.

NEW FLUID FOR PRESERVING LARVÆ, &c.

A cheap fluid for the satisfactory preservation of larvæ and other soft animal forms has long been a desideratum among naturalists. The following solutions, prepared by Professor Verrill, and published by him in *Silliman's Journal*, have been found satisfactory for the preservation of both the colour and form, as well as the structure of larvæ, fishes, mollusks and leaves of plants:—

SOLUTION A. I.; (which may be kept in wooden casks.)

Rock salt.....	40 oz.
Nitre (nitrate of potassa).....	4 oz.
Soft water.....	1 gallon.

This is the final solution in which all invertebrate animals must be preserved. A solution with double the amount of water may be kept, and called A. II.; another, with three gallons of water, will be A. III.

SOLUTION B. I.

Soft water.....	1 gallon.
Solution A. I.....	1 quart.
Arsenate of potassa.....	1 oz.

Another solution, with double the amount of water, may be made, and called solution B. II.

To preserve insects with these solutions, they are placed first in solution B. I., but if the weather be cool it would be better to first employ B. II. If the specimens rise to the surface they should be kept under by mechanical means. After remaining for several hours, or a day (varying according to the size and the weather), in the B. I. solution, they may be transferred to A. III., and then successively to A. II. and A. I., and when thus fully preserved they may be transferred to a fresh portion of the last solution, which has been filtered clean and bright, and put up in a cabinet, when no further change will be necessary, if the bottle or other vessel be properly secured to prevent the escape of the fluid by crystallization around the opening. To prevent this, the stopper, whether of cork or glass, together with the neck of the bottle, may be covered with a solution of paraffine, or wax in turpentine, or benzole, which should be applied only when the surfaces are quite dry and clean. The length of time that any specimen should remain in each of the solutions is usually indicated by their sinking to the bottom when saturated with it. In many cases but two solutions below A. I. will be effectual.