

Of these insects the *Cecropia* will probably be found to be the most useful, as it is easiest to raise, is the largest, and produces the most silk.

The results of all the most approved modes of rearing the silkworm and preparing the cocoons, were exhibited, and might be studied with advantage, in the Crystal Palace, during 1851.

“The *Bombyx mori*, having been bred and reared under the special care and management of man during a long succession of ages, may be regarded as a domesticated species of insect; and it has become the subject, as in the higher domesticated races, of varieties, of which those called “Sina,” “Syrie,” and “Novi,” in France, are examples.

“The Sina” variety of the silkworm is known and esteemed for the pure whiteness of its silk, the thread of which is fine, but weak, and not very lustrous. The “Syrie” variety is of large size, produces a cocoon abundant in silk, but the thread is rather coarse, and inclines to a greenish tint. The “Novi” race is small, but the cocoons are firm and well made, and the silk has a yellowish tint.

The specimens of cocoons and raw silk exhibited in the French department were numerous, and the degrees of excellence hardly to be discriminated in the finest examples selected for the award of the prize medal. With regard to the superior quality of these raw silks and cocoons, the Jury, by their recommendation of the award of the Council medal to the “Central Society of Sericulture of France,” desired to testify their admiration of the specimens exhibited by many members of that Society, and their appreciation of the important influence which it has exercised in the improvement of this valuable product of the animal kingdom.

The Jury, however, justly gave the honour of their first notice to the beautiful specimens shown by Major Count de Bronno Bronski, exhibitor of unbleached silk and silk cocoons from the Château de St. Selves, near Bordeaux, Department de la Gironde. The cocoons were remarkable for their large size and regularity of form, and the silk for the unusual length of the thread, its natural pure white colour, its fineness and lustre. The circumstances under which this superior quality of silk were obtained are certified in a report by a Committee of the Agricultural Society of the Gironde, dated 28th April, 1847, to be as follows:—“In 1836 Major Bronski reared separately the eggs of the three varieties, ‘Sina,’ ‘Syrie,’ and ‘Novi.’ In 1827 he set apart the cocoons of the varieties, ‘Syrie’ and ‘Novi;’ and on the exclusion of the imago, or perfect insect, he associated the males of the ‘Novi’ with the females of the ‘Syrie;’ and the hybrid ova were hatched at the ordinary period in 1838, the operations being repeated in 1839 and 1840. With regard to the race ‘Sina,’ M. Bronski, in 1837, separated the white from the black worms as soon as they were hatched. He then selected the largest and best shaped cocoons, and made a special collection of the eggs from the moths excluded from those cocoons. This procedure was repeated in 1838 and 1839; but in 1840 he associated the males excluded from the large cocoons of the black worms with the females excluded from those of the white worms. In 1841, he associated the males of the ‘Sina’ race with the hybrid females obtained from the above-described crossings of ‘Novi’ and ‘Syrie’ breeds.” By these and similar experi-

ments M. Bronski at length appears to have succeeded in obtaining a race of silkworms not subject to disease, producing large and equal-sized cocoons of a pure white colour, the silk of which was equal in all its length, strong and lustrous, and presenting an average length of thread of 1057 mètres.”

A few statistics are subjoined to show the very great importance of the manufacture of silk. From official returns, it is found that there were imported into Great Britain and Ireland during the year 1858 :

Raw silk.....	6,277,676lbs. valued at	£5,791,216
Thrown silk.	358,269lbs. “ “	457,866
Manufactured silk goods, from India	207,081 pieces.	
“ “ from Europe	827,650 lbs.	

The customs duties paid on these amounted to no less than £270,536.

In the same year, there were exported from England :

Raw silk.....	2,814,519lbs.
Thrown silk (foreign).....	364,680 “
Manufactured silk goods (European)..	18,092 “
“ “ (Indian)...	227,139 pieces.
“ “ (English)	480,709lbs valued
at.....	£603,399
Thrown silk (Eng.)	551,281lbs. valued at
Silk twist “	442,641 “ “ “ 928,644

The average weight per annum of raw and thrown silks imported into England in the years 1856-8, was 11,266,618lbs.

The returns of the silk trade for 1859, in England, amounted to £14,000,000; France, £31,300,000; Zollverein, £4,105,000; Switzerland, £4,000,000; Austrian States, £7,200,000; Spain, Italy, &c., £5,000,000. So that the total returns of the silk-manufactures in Europe amount to the enormous sum of £65,605,000.

In the year 1855, there was imported into the United States, over twenty-five million of dollars' worth of silk, from Italy, France and China, viz :—

Of raw silk.....	\$751,623
Of manufactured silk	\$24,916,356

The value of the importations of silks of all kinds into Canada in 1857 amounted to \$1,025,839. In 1858 it sunk to \$658,045, and in 1859 rose to \$901,856. A consumption which may now be assumed as fully equal to one million dollars a year, ought to supply a stimulant, which would lead many who have time at their disposal, to direct their attention to this interesting and important subject, and by practical experiment establish the feasibility of producing Canadian silk from Canadian silk-worms. It would be a very valuable and most interesting contribution to the International Exhibition of 1862, if a specimen of Canadian manufactured silk, with moths, worms, cocoons, and leaves of the trees they usually feed on, were to be prepared for exhibition.