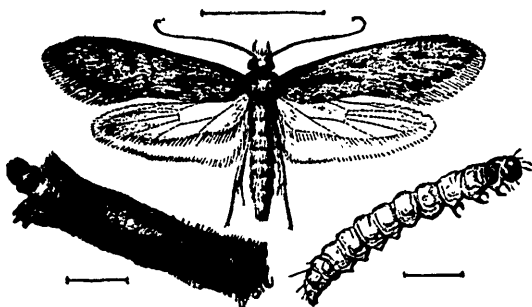


## CLOTHES MOTHS.

FIG. 1.—Clothes Moth, *Tinca pellionella*, L.

A most remarkable specimen, due to the work of insects, has been sent to the Editor by Miss Lucy C. Eaton, of Truro, Nova Scotia. This consists of a piece of cotton ticking, which had been used for a pillow case, and the inside of which has been so completely covered with fragments of feathers as to have the appearance of gray velvet or plush. Without examining it under the microscope, it seems difficult to believe that the beautifully even surface can have been produced in the way described, but this is undoubtedly the case. Miss Eaton writes that the pillow was made in the fall of 1889, and not opened till two years afterwards. It was filled with turkey feathers, which are very soft and downy at the base. Miss Eaton noticed that when this pillow was placed on beds, although no one made any remarks, she more often than not found it on the floor in the morning. After a time, suspecting nothing, she put it on her own bed, when the mystery was solved, for she says "I could not sleep for the noise like something crawling slowly back and forth." She turned it over and over, but it was no use, she was at last obliged to serve it as it had been served on so many previous occasions, and once more it was thrown to the floor. Some months after, upon opening the pillow, the whole inner surface was found to be entirely covered with a coating of velvety pile, and the feathers, some specimens of which were forwarded, were entirely stripped of down, which was cut into morsels almost as fine as dust. From the extent