

one of the largest and most interesting of all our native moths. The caterpillar is no dwarf, measuring as it often does some four inches in length, and being nearly as thick as a man's thumb. It looks rather pretty, with its pale green skin so beautifully ornamented with a double row of blue

over-partial to any one kind of tree; however it is most often found upon the apple and is able to defoliate a small tree in a short time. He has gone through several changes in exterior appearance, since he made his exit from the egg, and has now changed his clothes for the last time before his transformation.

It is worth the time for any of our readers who have an interest in the study of insects, to place one of these moths in a box and feed it a few apple leaves until it spins its cocoon, (see fig. 70) a rusty grey pod-shaped coffin, made of two layers of silk, in which it spends the time until its resurrection time, in the May or June of the coming spring. This cocoon is about three inches long, and sometimes the silk is unwound for use, but with much greater difficulty than that of the *Polyphemus* moth, which also belongs to the *Bombyx* or Silkworm family. Then, if one is so fortunate as to see it issue from its chrysalis, and develop into its beautified state, as we have done, he will feel amply repaid. Issuing forth from the smaller end of the cocoon it climbs up some convenient place where its wings may hang down, and gradually unfold their beauty; and, in the course of an hour, the insect will have developed to its full size, often measuring from five to seven inches from tip to tip of its wings. Our engraving, fig. 71, kindly loaned by the Entomological Society, is an excellent representation of this magnificent moth, which our readers cannot fail to recognize. The prevailing color of the wings is a rich brown, varied by a wavy dull-red band edged with



FIG. 70.—COCOON OF THE CECROPIA MOTH.

tubercles along each side, and a double row of yellow ones along the back, excepting those near the head and tail which are coral red. As one might imagine from his size, this fellow is a voracious feeder and is not