

The Cecropia Moth

BY RAYMOND ZAVITZ.

[The following article very well illustrates the advantages of observations of this nature, in that a pupil fourteen years of age is enabled to write a clear and comprehensive treatise on this important subject.—Editor.]

THE Cecropia (*Samia cecropia*) is our largest native moth. It is very easy to raise, the only source of trouble being the parasites. The following observations were made by the pupils of the Fourth Class in the Consolidated School.

Next spring the cocoons were brought out and placed in breeding cases in the school windows. On May 5 and 6 three adults emerged, two females and one male. The rest never hatched, as they had been attacked by parasites the previous summer. These



LARVAE OF CECROPIA MOTH.

In the fall of 1907 about thirty cecropia cocoons were gathered, mostly during Nature Study excursions. These cocoons were found in common trees, such as the maple, apple and hawthorn. When brought to the school they were stored in a cool dark place over winter.

parasites attack the Cecropia while in the larval stage. The female parasite deposits her eggs in the body of the larva, and, when the eggs hatch, the small grubs feed on the soft body of the larva. When the larva spins its cocoon its strength is nearly gone, and the parasites soon spin their cocoons