

who discuss pre-historic man in Europe knew a little more of his analogue in America. The subject is a tempting one, but I must close this notice, already too long for the space I should devote to it, by remarking, that the relations in America of the short-headed and long-headed races of men are by no means dissimilar from those of the two similar races in Europe; while it is also evident that some pre-historic skulls, supposed to be of vast antiquity, as, for instance, that of Engis, bear a very close resemblance to those of the Algonquin and Iroquois Indians.

ON THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM OF INSECTS.

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The subject of the present paper is The Respiratory System of Insects, and its direct relation to their nervous, nutritive and muscular functions, and as I trust this will only be the first of a series of papers on the structure of this remarkable and interesting class in the animal kingdom, I may perhaps be permitted to make a few introductory observations.

To some minds the discussion of insect physiology may appear a well nigh threadbare and exhausted subject, so much having been said and written on the structure, habits, and economy of these creatures. But, like other branches in the great domain of scientific research, this one has still hidden wonders, which will repay the labour of diligent and persevering inquiry.

No one ever thinks of asking, "What is a Bird?" or "What is a Fish?" but the question has yet to be answered satisfactorily and scientifically, "What is an Insect?" Nor need we wonder at the difficulty which naturalists have felt, when striving to find a distinctive name for these creatures; for of all the living things which this wondrous world presents to our view, there is no one class which contains such a strange diversity as that usually designated Insects.

There are insects with wings, and without wings; with jaws, and without jaws; with two eyes, and with many thousand eyes; some as large as humming birds, and others so small that the aid of a microscope is required to enable us to see them. Some insects, with dainty appetite, sip honey from the nectaries of flowers; while others, furnished with a pair of terrible jaws, grind