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AN EXPERIMENT WITH A STINGING LARVA.

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There is not in the whole group of caterpillars a more innocent and harmless-looking object than the larva of *Lagoa opercularis*—especially just previous to the fourth moult. As it reposes curled upon a leaf, with its long, wavy, white silken hairs the sport of the slightest zephyr, it resembles nothing so much as a tuft of the finest white cotton, and seems almost to invite the touch of caressing fingers. But let the unwary beware of meddling with that treacherous softness; they will find it a veritable “wolf in sheep’s clothing!”

I had upon several occasions tested upon my hands the prickles of various stinging larvæ, such as *Empretia stimulea*, *Callochloa viridis*, *Saturnia io* and *S. maia*, &c., without incurring more than a temporary smart, which, if severe, could be allayed by alkaline applications, as ammonia or a solution of soda. This being the case, I did not hesitate to undertake a similar experience with the larva of *Lagoa*, and one evening suffered the larva to be struck sharply against the little finger of my right hand, between the first and second joints. I felt the prickles pierce the skin, but for some time the irritation was but slight. As the evening advanced, however, the pain became severe and was accompanied by considerable inflammation and swelling of the finger. I then thought it advisable to apply some remedy, and tried first soda and then ammonia, but without the expected relief. I next resorted to arnica and camphor and finally to acids, but all in vain; the burning pain—exactly as though I held my finger against glowing coals—seemed rather to increase than diminish, and I felt that for once I was indeed a martyr to the desire (not my own, by the way!) for experimental knowledge. A night of sleepless suffering followed, and it was not until near morning that the pain subsided. No ill consequences followed except the peeling of the skin from