

### BLUE BUTTERFLIES ASLEEP (*Lycana learus*).

Walking last evening in a field where the long flowering stalks of grass were swaying to and fro in the breeze, I was struck by what seemed a small grey blossom hanging upon some of them, and looking more closely I found it was a blue butterfly which had gone to sleep upon the grass stem.

Passing on a little further I found dozens of the exquisite little creatures with folded wings quietly resting until the sunrise should awaken them to new life and activity.

This morning there was heavy rain and a high wind, and I was rather curious to know how the butterflies had fared, so when there came a lull in the storm I made my way to the field, and there were the fragile little insects being blown hither and thither on the grass stalks, but evidently quite unharmed by wind and rain.

I could but admire the instinct which had guided these frail creatures in their choice of a resting-place; had they been roosting in trees or shrubs a blow from a large leaf flapping to and fro would have been fatal to them, but on the slender grasses they bent before the gale and swung in their aerial cradles quite unharmed.

Another point of interest is that the bright azure of their upper wings which would have made them a conspicuous mark for a passing bird to feast upon, was entirely concealed whilst they were thus at rest, the wings being closely folded and bent down so that the finely spotted under-wings alone were seen, and made the tiny butterfly look like a part of the grass itself.

The calm confidence of these pretty insects brought to my mind a saying of Martin Luther as he called attention to a young bird asleep upon a spray.

"This little fellow has chosen his shelter and is quietly rocking himself to sleep, without a care for to-morrow's lodgings, calmly holding by his little twig and leaving God to think for him."

### VARYING POSITION OF LEAVES.

A long period of drought is now rather seriously affecting vegetation.

Without moisture, the roots of plants cannot send up the needful supplies of food into the stem and leaves; exhaustion consequently ensues and the outward sign of a starved condition is seen in the drooping position of the leaves.

Where the leaf-stalk joins the stem there is a flexibility of tissue which admits of the leaf being raised or lowered. In some trees and plants there exists, at the base of the leaf stalk (or petiole) a swollen articulation which is called a pulvinus. It is almost like a hinge and enables the leaf to hang down or rise to an entirely upright position.

We may see this hinge in action by touching a sensitive plant when, before our eyes, the leaf rapidly descends and the leaflets fold together.

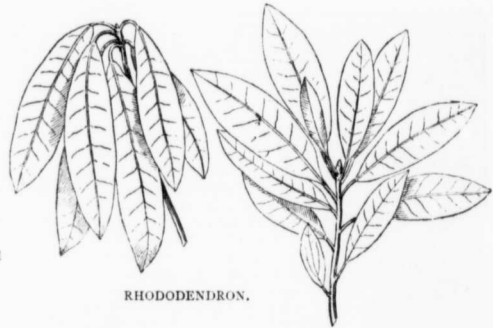
Where this plant cannot be observed the same effect can be noted by examining a clover plant in the morning when all its leaves will be erect, and visiting the same plant in the evening, each leaflet will be found hanging down and folded together in its nightly sleep.

The illustration shows the effect of drought upon rhododendron leaves.

This pendant foliage has a strangely depressing effect upon the spirits; it is as though all nature was sorrowing and trying to express her mournful condition.



EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPH  
FOR REJOICING.



RHODODENDRON.

As far back as the time of the Egyptian dynasties, the upward tending line was always chosen as the expression of joy and gladness typified by a man with uplifted hands, that being the hieroglyph to express rejoicing. The upward curves of a smiling mouth and the sad effect when the lips are drawn downwards illustrate the same truth. For the same reason we call a tree whose branches all droop towards the ground a weeping willow, birch or elm, as the case may be.

Keeping this principle in mind as we take our rambles will afford a fresh subject for thought, and we shall find many other illustrations confirming this fact which I have not space to touch upon now.

### ROCKS AND STONES.

In a previous note I spoke of some points of interest in the formation of granite rocks and what we may discover in gravelly soils.

Let us now suppose ourselves in a limestone country with its granite cliffs and caverns.

It was a delightful surprise to me to find that I could actually pick up fossils in the streets at Buxton which are mended with broken lime-stone; I thus obtained quite a variety of museum specimens in the course of a morning's walk. There are, I believe, more than six hundred species of fossil shells to be found in mountain limestone besides the remains of fishes, corals and plants.

Derbyshire abounds in curious caverns

where we may see the growth of stalactites from the roof. These are formed by the constant dripping of water containing calcareous matter which encrusts in long spikes like icicles. The drops continually falling from them also concrete upon the floor of the cavern and form masses of what is called stalagmite.

I met with a still more curious form of this deposit in a cavern at the Cheddar Cliffs. The dripping lime water had there taken the form of a curtain and hung from the roof in

graceful folds; it was so translucent that the light of a torch, held by the guide, shone through as though it were formed of horn or tortoise-shell.

Alabaster is another form of limestone; this is a sort of calcareous spar, soft enough to be easily carved into statuettes or other ornaments.

Some years ago when I was visiting a little seaside resort called Blue Anchor in Somersetshire, I was much interested in observing that a part of the sea cliff there contained a vein of alabaster of various shades of pink and red.

Although it is found in many places in England in strata in the earth or in caverns, I do not know of any other locality where alabaster can be seen and obtained so easily as at this particular spot.

As I am only trying to point out a few interesting geological specimens which my readers may find for themselves, I will pass over the various kinds of marbles, forms of limestone which need to be quarried out of the earth and which are seldom to be met with in a day's ramble.

Where building operations are going on we may often obtain small pieces of the Bath, Portland or Caen stone which are used so much for pillars or ornamental sculpture.

The additional names of Oolite and Roestone have been given to these forms of limestone, because they appear to consist of small round grains or eggs, such as compose the roe of a fish.

## VARIETIES.

### A PARABLE.

Here is a parable by an American poet:

"One went east, and one went west  
Across the wild sea-foam,  
And both were on the self-same quest.  
Now one there was who cared for nought,  
So stayed at home:  
Yet of the three, 'twas only he  
Who reached the goal—by him unsought."

**GOODNESS NOT GLORY.**—Remember that if the opportunities for great deeds should never come, the opportunity for good deeds is renewed for you day by day. The thing we should long for is goodness, not glory.

**TWO ERRORS.**—It is a great mistake to fancy oneself greater than one is, and an equal mistake to value oneself at less than one is worth.

**HOW TO ABOLISH POVERTY.**—The best anti-poverty society ever known in this world is made up of those who work up to the measure of their abilities, and have the good sense to spend less than they earn. Some people will not work, and for this reason are poor, and some who do work spend all they earn, and for this reason are poor. It is not God's intention that idlers and spendthrifts should share in the earnings of others.