

out-building throughout the winter, bringing them into the house next May. The cocoons, of course, should be put into a box with rough sides, so that when the moths emerge they can hold on while their wings are expanding. It will be noticed that one end of the cocoon is spun very loosely, and it is from this end that the moth emerges. The head first appears, then the front pair of legs, and soon the other pairs of legs, the heavy body, and the undeveloped wings. As soon as it has attached itself to a nearby object, these latter soon expand and in less than an hour the two pairs of wings attain their full size.

The caterpillars of the Cecropia Emperor Moth hatch from whitish eggs laid in June. They moult, or cast their skins, four times before reaching full growth. At first they are black, changing in the next stage to a deep orange, and in the third stage to yellowish green. In the next and also in the last stage the colour is more of a bluish green. In all the stages the body bears tubercles the colours of which are different after each moult. When full grown the Cecropia caterpillar is from three to four inches long, and is about as thick as a man's thumb. On segments 2 and 3, the tubercles are large and of a bright coral red colour; the other tubercles on the back are smaller and yellow, excepting those on the first and last segments which are blue, as are also the smaller tubercles along the sides. These caterpillars although so beautiful and striking in appearance, from their great size and conspicuously coloured tubercles, are considered very disgusting creatures by many, and this of course is but natural. It would not be human nature if everyone had the same likes and dislikes—it takes all kinds of people to make a world.

The caterpillar of this moth is a very general feeder and over fifty different plants have been recorded upon which it has been found feeding. In Canada the favourite food plants are apple, maple, birch, cherry, plum and willow. Although this caterpillar has a very voracious appetite, it is seldom that it really does very much harm, as it is unusual to find more than two or three larvæ on the same tree, and when their presence is noticed they can easily be removed by hand.

This grand insect occurs in Canada in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and specimens may every year be collected or seen flying around electric lights. In certain seasons, however, their numbers are greatly reduced by natural parasites, the most important of which are the Long-tailed Ophion, *Ophion macrurum*, L., which forms a single close cocoon inside that of its host, and *Cryptus extrematis*, Cresson, of which several occur inside a single caterpillar, and when this latter has spun its winter resting place they emerge and entirely fill the space with their own cocoons.