

THE LUMINOUS LARVA.

Respecting our notice of this singular insect in our first number the Rev. J. G. Morris, D.D., of Baltimore, Md., writes as follows:—"Judging from your description precisely a similar larva was brought to me a few years ago for investigation. As it belonged to a public museum I could not retain it for daily observation and feeding, neither had I time to go and watch its habits. I presumed, however, that it was full fed and would soon change. A few days after I went to make enquiry and was told that the bottle with earth had been thrown out, and on further asking they told me "the worm wasn't there any longer;" on pressing my questions the stupid fellow said that "there was a ball of earth almost as round as a marble, which he had not seen before, in the glass jar, but not knowing what it was he had emptied the whole concern into the street!" I have no doubt that the ball was the work of the larva in which it had enclosed itself, but it was irrecoverably lost. I made no description of the insect, but yours suits it precisely. Do the *Lampyridæ* cover themselves with dirt, as the *Geotrupidæ*, for example, in undergoing their transformation? If so, then we have one presumptive proof that the larva belonged to that family, but it is best not to be too rash in our conclusions. I very much regret that I can give you no more satisfactory information."

A few days ago (Sept. 3) we had the great good fortune to find a wingless female Fire-fly, whose tail segments were luminous. We must defer an account of it for the present.

NOTICE OF ENTOMOLOGICAL WORKS.

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The first number of a new periodical on practical entomology, edited by the State entomologists of Illinois and Missouri, is now before us. We gladly welcome its advent as a worthy successor to our old friend the *Practical Entomologist*, whose discontinuance was a source of much regret to us, and trust that it may long continue to flourish as a worthy and useful exponent of the true history and habits of the myriad insect friends and foes to the gardeners and farmers of this continent. Time was when to be an entomologist was to render oneself a source of anxiety and care to one's friends, and an object of pity or derision to one's neighbours; but now, happily, people in general are becoming rather more enlightened, and do not think that a man has a bee in his bonnet because he catches butterflies; is it because they find that