

and patience can effect upon the most unpromising creatures ; and even Mr. Forster might have wondered to see it come out of the glass bottle where it lives, eat sugar from its master's fingers, allow him to stroke its striped back, and fly round and round his head, returning always to its home in the bottle. At first, says its distinguished educator, it was "rather too ready with its sting," but now it never thinks of unsheathing the tiny rapier at its tail ; and nobody who saw the insect could doubt that its nature had been greatly changed.

A PLAGUE of butterflies is a rare occurrence. A short time ago, however, the town of Florence was invaded by a prodigious quantity of these insects. All the distance of the Long'arno between the Piazza Manin and the Barriera and in all the adjacent streets the passage was almost obstructed by an extraordinary quantity of butterflies that had swarmed in such thick clouds round the gaslights that the streets were comparatively dark. Fires were immediately lighted by order of the Municipality and by private citizens, in which the butterflies burnt their wings, so that half an hour afterwards one walked on a layer formed by the bodies of the butterflies an inch thick !!! They were of a whitish colour, and some of the streets appeared as if covered with snow, at least so say the Italian papers.—*Nature*.

OUR ANNUAL REPORT.—We expect to be able to mail to each of our members a copy of the Annual Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario to the Department of Agriculture for 1872, sometime during the month of January, 1873. It will treat of insects injurious to the strawberry, grape, potato, hop, and maple. There will also be a chapter on beneficial insects, and a short history of some of our more common innocuous insects, all illustrated as far as possible by suitable figures.

PIERIS VERNALIS.—Mr. G. M. Dodge writes us from Illinois that on October 16th and 19th, 1872, he captured two male specimens of this butterfly, but that the cold weather then coming on, he saw no more. He enquires if it is not a little remarkable that this species should occur in the fall? and if the fact does not militate against the idea entertained that *vernalis* is the spring brood of *P. protodice*.—E. B. R.

THE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGIST.—I have a few bound copies of the two volumes of this periodical, which I will send post-paid by mail upon receipt of \$3.50 per volume, or \$6.50 for both. Address C. V. RILEY, Room 29, Insurance Building, St. Louis, Mo.