

subsequent authors. The most interesting operation in the pupation of the suspensi butterflies is the withdrawal of the chrysalis from the larval skin, the casting off of the skin with its attachment by the terminal legs to a button of silk spun for the purpose by the larva, and the attachment and suspension of the chrysalis by its anal spine to the silk button. Reaumur represented it as accomplished by the chrysalis in its extensions and contractions grasping the larval skin between the segments, and by this means raising itself until it regained the button. Recently Mr. Osborne, an English Entomologist, discovered a membrane serving as a suspensory agent in the change to the pupal state, and for the first, questioned the account given by Reaumur. His observations were confirmed by those of Mr. W. H. Edwards, and followed up by additional observations on large numbers of Nymphalidæ and Danaidæ, some of which have been presented in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. There seems to be no question of the existence of such a membrane, and that it consists of the portion of the larval skin lining the region of the rectum, caught upon two knobs conveniently placed for the purpose. Prof. Riley, in a communication to *Psyche* (vol. ii., p. 249) finds other means of chrysalis suspension—the principal one being the shed intestinal canal, and accessory ones, the tracheal vessels of the last pair of spiracles; these Prof. Riley regards as the principal agents in suspension. In opposition to this, Mr. Edwards considers these ligaments as of but little, if any, service, and finds the membrane to furnish all the requisite support. Additional observations are required to reconcile these different views.

The beds of fossil insects recently discovered in the Tertiaries of our western Territories are proving to be wonderfully rich in number of species and condition of preservation. From a single small basin exposed by a railway cut in the vicinity of Green River Station, Union Pacific Railroad, in Wyoming, Mr. S. H. Scudder in *Fossil Insects of the Green River Shales* (Bull. U. S. Geolog.-Geograph. Surv. Terr., iv., No. 4, pp. 747-776) enumerates eighty species, representing all the orders of the Insecta except Lepidoptera. An idea of the richness of these beds may be obtained from the statement, that a two hours' search was rewarded by the collection of fifty new species. We are glad to learn that Mr. Scudder is engaged upon a general work on our fossil insects, which will form one of the volumes of the quarto reports of the Hayden Survey—the beautiful typography and illustration of which causes us to regret the prospective speedy termination of the series. As the Tertiary Shales of the Rocky