

NATURE STUDY—No. XXIII.

THE CLOUDED SULPHUR BUTTERFLY (*Colias philodice*, Godt.)

A NATURE STUDY.

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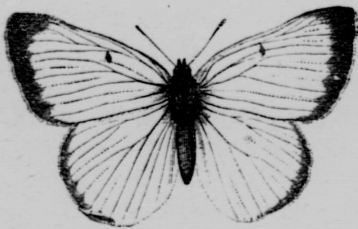


Fig. 1.—Male.

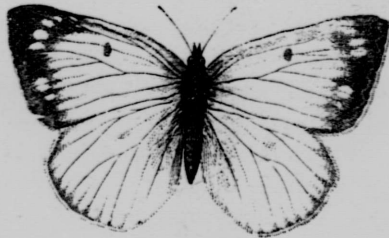


Fig. 2.—Female.

In Nature Study work a few common objects studied thoroughly as to their essential and salient points will be of more use than a large number of disconnected facts relating to many different objects. The limitations of work undertaken must be clearly defined both as to method and aims. These must be thought out by the teacher beforehand and must be kept constantly in mind. With a view to directing the attention of teachers and others to a convenient exercise in studying insect life which is available to all, I would suggest that the common Clouded Sulphur Butterfly offers special advantages. The butterfly is striking in appearance and interesting in habits; it is common in all parts of Canada east of the prairies. It appears early in the year, and the various members of the pea and clover family upon which the caterpillars feed occur everywhere. Eggs of this butterfly can be secured with the greatest ease, and as its whole life-history, from the egg to the perfect butterfly takes only about one month no one need tire of the exercise before it is completed. The beauty of the egg, the rapid development of the caterpillar and the various changes as it passes from moult to moult, from the time of hatching until it reaches full growth, will be found exceedingly interesting to all who will observe them, but the fascination of watching the change from caterpillar to chrysalis and then the gradual appearance of color and its increasing intensity day by day as the butterfly forms inside the shell, must be a source of keenest delight and wonder