

spiracle on this segment. The terminal segment is flattened and has a number of small pale reddish and blackish tubercles scattered over its surface. Along the sides of the body close to the under surface there is a thick fringe of short fleshy-looking hairs of a delicate pink colour.

The under surface is also of a delicate pink, of a deeper shade along the middle, becoming bluish towards the margins with a central row of nearly round black spots which are largest from the seventh to the eleventh segments inclusive. The anterior segments are greenish-white tinted with rosy pink along the middle, with a dull reddish spot at the base behind each pair of feet.

When about to change to a chrysalis the larva makes a rough enclosure by drawing together fragments of leaves and fastening them with silken threads, within which it undergoes its transformation and appears as a moth in about three weeks afterwards.

The moth is on the wing during the greater part of July and August, is attracted by light and comes freely to sugar. All the insects of this family are night-flyers and expose their brilliant hind wings only in flight. When at rest the grey or dull brown upper wings overlap and cover up the gaily-tinted under wings like a very flat roof.

THE IO MOTH.—(*Saturnia io*.)

The caterpillar of this moth is very pretty and is well represented in Fig. 46. It is of a very delicate pea-green colour, with a broad white stripe on each side, bordered with lilac below. The body is covered with spreading clusters of green bristles tipped with black, and when the larva is handled these bristles sting like nettles. Judging from the number of communications we have had concerning this insect during the past year it must have been very common in many quarters.

While quite young these caterpillars feed in flocks, and have then the curious habit when moving from place to place of marching in regular procession like files of soldiers; when full grown, they lose this habit and feed singly. They are very general feeders and will eat corn, willow, hazel, sassafras, wild cherry, elm, and a number of other trees and plants. When full grown the larva crawls to the ground, where, among loose leaves and rubbish, it forms a rough outer covering, and within this a slight cocoon of tough brown silk.



Fig. 46.

The moths are very handsome, and are remarkable for the difference between the sexes

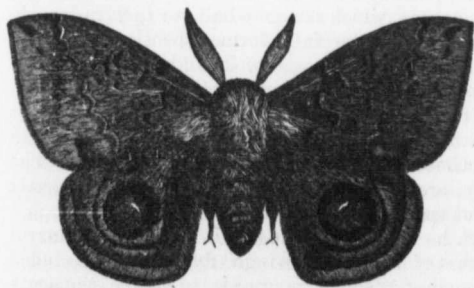


Fig. 47.

both in size and colour. The male (Fig. 47) is the smallest, and of a deep yellow colour, with darker reddish lines and spots. The hind wings are broadly shaded with purple next to the body; near the hinder margin is a curved purplish band, and within this again is a smaller one of a dark purple or violet colour. In the centre of this last band, and in the middle of the wing is a large round blue spot with a whitish centre and a broad, border almost black. The body is a deep yellow, a little darker on the thorax; the antennae are broadly toothed.