

ferent parts of the body in the Lepidoptera, although the hair and scales covering the body and wings must be removed in order that the shape of the pieces making up the thorax and head, and the course of the veins, be clearly observed. An excellent method of taking the colouring-matter out of the scales of the wings, rendering them perfectly transparent, has been discovered by Mr. George Dimmock; and my friend Professor C. H. Fernald has explained the method employed by him in mounting the prepared wings as microscopic objects with such success. A knowledge of the structure of the legs is of importance in the classification of the Noctuidæ, in order to locate the species generically; but this can be observed with a good lens (I have used a half-inch on a binocular stand), and generally without any denuding, although the armature of the front tibiæ is sometimes concealed by the vestiture.

The growth of the Moths may be divided into the several stages of egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and imago or perfect insect, as these are severally easily observed by us. Yet the life of the individual very gradually proceeds, despite the apparent suddenness of the transformations it undergoes. From another point of view we may consider the life of the Moth as falling into two periods—its immature existence, and the final mature state in which it is able to reproduce its kind. The egg, caterpillar, and chrysalis mark epochs in its immature condition, the two latter stages not being as completely defined in