

coloured as frequently to make these insects marvellously beautiful.

The abdomen is composed of several ring-like segments, but in common with the other regions of the body, is often greatly changed, and has the segments welded together or atrophied. From the tip of the female abdomen frequently projects the ovipositor, which is most conspicuous in some hymenoptera, and which is modified in many interesting directions. The male abdomen in a large number of insects differs in shape from that of the female, and the sexual organs are more or less conspicuously developed.

In addition to the structures which have been so briefly indicated, there is often much of interest in the sculpture or vestment of the body. Some insects are smooth and highly polished, deriving their beauty from brilliant metallic or other colours of the body wall; others depend for their adornment on dense coverings of pubescence or scales, which, as in the case of those which beautify the butterfly, make exquisite objects for microscopical examination.

The internal anatomy of insects is no less a favourite study for those who desire to see the mechanism which enables each of these tiny creatures to fulfil its destiny in this world. For anatomical study with the microscope insects are peculiarly well adapted, as they can always be obtained, are easy to kill and handle, and have elaborate muscular, nervous and digestive systems.