

NATURE STUDY—No. XVII.

THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS.

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It does not require much experience to collect insects. Some kinds of these interesting creatures can be found at all seasons of the year. Of the Lepidoptera, the moths, which as a rule fly at night, are by far the most numerous, and the months of June, July and August are the best to hunt for them. The first butterflies emerge during the early warm days of spring and continue to appear throughout the summer, some species flying late into the fall. The following directions, owing to limited space, are brief but are included in this Nature Study series in the hope that they may be of use to teachers and students who may care to collect these insects in connection with their work. Insect life is full of intense interest, and in the study of these beautiful creatures many practical Nature Study lessons can be drawn.

THE NET.—Butterfly nets can be bought from any of the dealers in entomological supplies. These range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.50. It is not difficult to make a net, however, and this can be done easily at home. One of the nets the writer uses, consists of a piece of cane 38 inches long, and rather more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. This is bent in the shape of a circle (fig. 1), the sides of both ends being shaved off to fit the upper square projections of a ferrule. An easy way of carrying the cane when not in use is to put it under the coat around the waist, placing the ends in the side trouser pockets. A light stick from 2½ to 3 feet long answers as a handle. Any tinsmith for a small sum will make one of these ferrules (fig. 2). The one I generally use is made

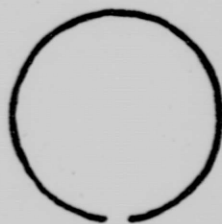


Fig. 1.