

other Insects of the State of New York, gives the following explanation:—"The idea which was present in the mind of Linnæus, when he named this splendid moth, we think is sufficiently evident. The Athenians were the most polished and refined people of antiquity. The moths are the most delicate and elegant of insects; they are the Athenians of their race. Cecrops was the founder, the head of the Athenian people. When names of men were bestowed upon cities, ships, or other objects regarded as being of a feminine gender, classical usage changed these names to the feminine form. The moths (*Phalæna*) being feminine, and the name of Cecrops being more euphonious in this form, probably induced Linnæus to change it in the manner he did. The name thus implies this to be the leader, the head of the most elegant tribe of insects, or in other words, the first of all the insect kind. What name more appropriate can be invented for this most sumptuous moth?"

The cocoon of this insect, shown beneath the moth in the above figure, is the largest and best known of the cocoons found in this country. It is about three inches in length, an inch or more in width at its widest part, and tapers to both ends. Some specimens, of course, are larger than this; we have examples that measure four inches long and two inches wide at the centre. In colour the cocoon is a rusty gray, or brownish. If one is cut into with a sharp knife, or a pair of scissors, an inner, oval cocoon will be found. Within this is a large, black pupa, to one end of which is attached the head of the caterpillar and the cast skin of its body. This inner cocoon will be noticed to be much more closely woven. It is interesting to watch the caterpillar making its cocoon. From the time it begins to spin it never ceases until its work is completed, and the whole cocoon is spun in one continuous thread. In the case of the American Silkworm, *Telea polyphemus*, L., it has been stated by Trouvelot that this caterpillar in making its cocoon, will have moved its head to and fro, in order to distribute the silk, 254,000 times, the length of time taken to complete this operation being from three to five days.

During the past season the caterpillars of the *Cecropia* Emperor Moth have been more than usually abundant in eastern Canada. It is altogether likely, therefore, that many cocoons will be found on apple, maple, plum, and other trees during the coming winter. The moths emerge in the latter end of May and early in June, and if any of our members would like to experience the pleasure of watching one of these large Emperor Moths escaping from its cocoon, it is only necessary to collect one or two of the cocoons, and keep them in an