

According to Swammerdam, the hairs on the tip of the breathing tube and end of the body of a mosquito larva are anointed with oil so as to repel water. He also remarks that this oil is removed when the larva is roughly handled. Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, made the statement that "bees, wasps, hornets, or butterflies, and whatever other animals are generated by metamorphosis from a creeping insect, are offspring of chance, and therefore never to keep up their species."

Baster thought that the spiracles of insects were their organs of smell, and this opinion was also held by Cuvier, Dumeril and Lehmann, Cuvier believing that the lining of the tracheæ were constructed to receive stimuli. The old superstitions connected with certain wood-boring beetles and theirappings, known as the "death watch," prompted Swift to write the following lines:

"A wood worm

That lies in old wood, like a hare in her form,
With teeth or with claws it will bite, it will scratch;
And chambermaids christen this worm a death watch;
Because like a watch it always cries click.
Then woe be to those in the house that are sick,
For sure as a gun, they will give up the ghost,
If the maggot cries click when it scratches the post.
But a kettle of scalding hot water injected,
Infallibly cures the timber affected;
The omen is broken, the danger is over,
The maggot will die and the sick will recover."

In 1730, during a severe outbreak of the Brown-tail Moth in the vicinity of Paris, the French journalists stated that part of the caterpillars were produced by spiders, and that these spiders, and not the caterpillars, produced the webs from the slime of snails, which they were said to have been seen collecting for that purpose. A more garbled idea than this it would be hard to invent. The outbreak was so severe at that time that the city officials of Paris issued an order compelling the people to "uncaterpillar" (decheniller) their trees. Cold rains, however, produced so much mortality among the larvæ that it was not necessary to enforce the order.

And so on, through all of the pages of early entomology, run these curious beliefs and fascinating old accounts of insects.