

of our moths and beetles ! All these things appeal most strongly to the sense of the beautiful which will be found implanted in the breast of by far the greater number of our youth, and which in many cases requires but the smallest encouragement to spring up and develop into what may make of its happy possessor a painter, a sculptor, a naturalist, who may be conspicuous among his fellow men for the power of depicting whatever is great and beautiful in the domain of his chosen art. How many an Audubon, Cuvier, Darwin, or Linnaeus, may we have in our very midst, to whom the divine spark which is necessary to kindle into flame the slumbering forces of these youthful minds may be imparted by a chance word of encouragement or of sympathy, and to whom a chance excursion into the domain of Natural History may prove the starting point upon a career which will bring renown, not only upon himself personally, but upon our country as well ? If, indeed, no such prominence is reached, the habits of observation thus engendered will prove to be such that the powers of mind will be strengthened very materially, for, whatever pursuit in life may be adopted, it will be found, without a doubt, that the study of Nature in some one of her many forms will tend to make life easier and happier, and will cultivate and refine our ideas ; and not only this, but this study will tend directly to impart breadth and solidity to all our conceptions, to lift us out of the narrow rut into which one is far too prone to be drawn ; to extend the scope of our possibilities, and to make gladder the whole pathway of life. When one thinks of the privileges enjoyed by the instructors of our youth at the present day, in the acquisition of knowledge concerning Nature in all her forms, not only through the medium of the lecture room, but through the agency of text-books, which have increased so rapidly and obtained such an excellence that one finds it almost an impossibility to keep in line with them, we can but hope that those to whom are entrusted the moulding of the minds of our nation will carry out their work on the broadest and noblest plan, and make full use of all the best and choicest methods at their disposal. The study of all these things carries us at once into the broad domain of science, and a knowledge of the anatomy of the beetle, or of the habits and life history of one of our most ordinary insects, things which can be picked up anywhere by hundreds, are as