

Here is a broad field. From the special range of my own studies let me recommend to any one eager for this work to choose the eggs of our common copper butterfly, which she will lay to order on sorrel, and the earlier stages of which can be obtained from the parent at two or three different times of the year; or the eggs of any of our common skippers, which deposit on grass, and which are equally easy to obtain, although only once a year. Or, if we turn to Orthoptera, the eggs of our common *Oecanthus*, concealed all winter in raspberry twigs, are more transparent and more easily obtained than those of any other cricket; and our knowledge of the embryology of any of the *Gryllidae* is very fragmentary, and of this particular tribe, *nil*. Better still, perhaps, would be the choice of our common walking-stick, as it belongs to a bizarre and isolated type, now known to be of very ancient ancestry, and of whose embryonic history nothing has been published. I have, indeed, a few incomplete notes upon this insect, but they relate wholly to a late period of development, and were made before the time of the microtome, when work over such coarse-shelled eggs was very difficult and unsatisfactory. The eggs may be readily procured, the insect being abundant in scrub-oak fields; the mother drops the eggs loosely on the ground, and from imprisoned specimens I have procured scores in a single season. Any one who will glance over the history of what has been done in insect embryology will be able to select a hundred examples as important and as easy to obtain as those already named, and by concentrating his work upon them will do better service than in an aimless selection of what may come to his hand.

In following the post-embryonal history of insects there is work for all. While allied forms have in general a very similar development, there are so many which are unexpectedly found to differ from one another, that every addition to our knowledge of the life histories of insects is a gain, and they are to be praised who give their close attention to this matter. Here is a field any entomologist, even the most unskilled, may cultivate to his advantage and with the assurance that every new history he works out is a distinct addition to the science. The importance of an accumulation of facts in this field can hardly be overestimated, and those whose opportunities for field work are good, should especially take this suggestion to heart. Nor, by any means, is the work confined to the mere collection of facts. How to account for this extraordinary diversity of life and habits among insects, and what its meaning may be, is one of the problems of the evolutionist. There are also here some especially curious