

on one side is a perfect representation of the upper side of the butterfly, on the opposite another of the under side, and loose between these a perfectly clear horny membrane; the explanation of this is, the upper ends of the scales are adhering to the gum and what we now look at are the lower ends or roots. When painting with water, to dissolve the gum, great care must be taken not to let it run over the outline on to the wings, or else the scales will not adhere to the paper, but will remain on the membrane.

The work is not yet finished, however; a most important part has still to be done. This is the filling in of the body and antennæ; the easiest way to do this is with a fine pen and some water-colors. Place the body from which the wings were severed before you and copy it, taking particular notice of any characteristic markings, as, for instance, the color of the eyes, legs, or antennæ. When finished cut it out with a pair of sharp scissors, paste it in an album, and write a short description of its capture, giving the date, locality and any other interesting circumstances connected with it. I have found it is easier to put in the antennæ after the prints are gummed into the collection, as on account of their fragility they are difficult to cut out neatly. Should the collector happen to be an artist, a most beautiful collection may be made in this manner by painting pretty designs with flowers for each species and gumming the butterflies in in natural positions; of course, too, its scientific value will be materially increased if those plants are introduced to which the insect is most partial, and, when possible, a sketch of the larva and pupa is added.

The chief advantages of this process are: the ease with which it is done; the great convenience with which the specimens are preserved or transmitted through the post for identification or exchange; their greater durability, for they will stand much rougher handling than specimens preserved in the ordinary way; and, more important than all these, the fact that if you have only one specimen you can show both the upper and under sides at once, and also the membranous skeleton of the wings, which can thus be very easily examined and makes a beautiful object for the microscope; moreover, if you have only an imperfect specimen, it is possible to preserve a good likeness of it by filling in the wanting parts with water-colors. Further, it does not matter how old your specimens are; I have some prints which I have taken from butterflies collected in India more than twenty years ago, which are quite as good as others printed on the same day that the insects were caught here.