

me to write this note. My little son has found a parasite in the chrysalis of *Pieris rapae*, Sch., which I will report on as soon as worked up.

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COCOONS MADE BY SNOUT-BEETLES.—I was sorry to find, upon glancing over my late communication that, as it appears on page 118, I have in my haste made too sweeping an assertion in stating that "*Curculionidous* larvæ do not spin silken cocoons," (lines 16 and 17). I know of none in this country which have any such power of spinning, and this is so very generally the case with the family that it may almost be stated as a rule. Yet, Westwood in his *Introduction* mentions, on other authority, several instances of such spinning, some of which I am inclined to think must be taken *cum grano salis*. It will be well to instance them, however. On page 337 (Vol. II.) he speaks of the perfect female of *Rhynchites bacchus*, Linn., as lining her nidus with silk, yet from the writings of Kollar, Nordlinger, Boisduval and others, we may learn that this nidus is simply closed with a glutinous substance, and whether secreted from the mouth or anus does not appear so clear. Again, on page 341, mention is made of an undetermined species which in the larva state draws the clusters of apple blossoms together by means of a web. This is on the authority of *Salisbury on Orchards*, which I cannot consider very trustworthy. But on page 343 we find sufficiently authentic notices of cocoons spun by larvæ belonging to the genera *Hypoc* and *Cionus*, and by another weevil named *Curculio pimpticellæ*: my statement should, therefore, be qualified.

C. V. RILEY.

ARTIFICIAL COLOURING OF LEPIDOPTERA.—At a recent meeting of the Entomological Society of London, (England), Mr. Butler exhibited species of Lepidoptera, upon which experiments had been made by Mr. Meldola, with regard to testing the effects of dyes. The insects were *Pieris brassicæ* and *napi*, *Gonopteryx rhamni*, *Vanessa urticæ*, *Pyrameis Atalanta* and *Arctia caja*. The most striking effects were observable in *P. napi* dyed black, and *A. caja* dyed metallic-green and magenta. The dyes used were aniline. Mr. Meldola dissolved the dyes in spirits of wine and laid them on with a camel-hair pencil. Not being satisfied with Mr. Meldola's experiments, Mr. Butler resolved upon performing others on his own account; but being then ignorant of the system pursued, he dissolved his dyes in hot water, and discovered that the specimens would not take them. He then made a solution of soda, into which he dipped *G. rhamni*, and found that the yellow pigment immediately united with