

Suddenly he rose and fell, as if heaving a deep sigh. Then he began a curious swaying movement, round and round, or from side to side, much like the movement of a bear.

At last, the skin at the back of his neck cracked open, and his motion became more violent. Extending himself to his greatest length he raised his first pair of legs, the others moving also, but not to such extent, as if praying for help. Then he drew down, down, till he seemed to crouch in despair.

Keenly excited now I gently opened the cocoon-window wider, and now the reason for the decorations of gaudy tubercles was explained.

As he moved in the various directions the spines rubbed against the wall of the cocoon, and thus aided him in discarding the larval skin. The crack in the skin had meanwhile greatly lengthened, and the head parts and leg cases slowly slid downward. It was very much like a child taking off a frock after the back is unbuttoned.

Now appeared to my enraptured gaze a totally new creature. A creature of soft, velvety folds of a golden yellow, with gelatine legs and heavy antennæ (it was evidently a male). The wings, as if folded many times, lay in thick clumps on the body, and the lower body wore the stripes of the perfect moth.

The swaying motion still kept on, the skin moving ever downward till neatly packed away, it formed the masque or cushion found in the empty cocoons.

Now from the segments of the body and seemingly from openings about the head, a yellow varnish began to exude, which gradually covered the whole creature; smoothing down the antennæ and legs, and levelling the wings with the body, till all the parts looked as if covered with yellow glass.

The change of form commenced at about nine o'clock in the evening. It was two o'clock in the morning when completed. The pupa still moved faintly, and was quickly turning a dark brown.

I sealed up the cocoon carefully, and put it away in a cold place to await further developments.

In June the moth came out in perfect order, none the worse for the evening's education it had afforded me.