

THE STORY OF THE CABBAGE BUTTERFLY.

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THE White Cabbage Butterflies can be seen almost any fine day in summer flitting about the cabbages in the garden, and among the wayside flowers. Although harmless, they are not liked by farmers and gardeners, because they are the parents of the common green "worms" which do much harm to cabbages by eating holes in their leaves.

It seems strange that a green, crawling cabbage worm should grow into a dainty, white-winged butterfly; and it is the object of this story to tell, in a simple way, the strange life of this insect. It must be remembered, however, that the life stories of all insects are not alike. Some insects spend their whole life above ground; some partly below ground and partly above; some almost altogether in water; some partly in the water and partly in the air; some eat their food while others suck up their food as a liquid; some spend part of their life as a crawling caterpillar, while others have no such stage. So varied are the habits of insects that a noted writer once said:—"Insects walk, run, and jump with the quadrupeds, fly with the birds, glide with the serpents, and swim with the fish."



Fig. 42 The boy and the insect.



Fig. 43 Egyptian Mummy in its case.

It would be interesting work to find examples of many of the insects to which this writer referred, and to study their habits; but this story must deal with the White Cabbage Butterfly.

The ancient Egyptians had a strange custom of embalming their dead, and wrapping them in linen bandages. These mummies, as they are called, were placed in curiously wrought cases, and stored carefully away in secret tombs or pits, in the belief that after a time life would return to them.

Now we have creatures which nature changes into *living mummies* for five or six months in the year; and living mummies ought to be more interesting than dead ones. These may be seen at any time during the winter if a little search be made for them under fence-rails, under the eaves of outbuildings, and in other sheltered places. I mean the pupae, or resting forms, of insects. But the particular mummies to which I shall refer are the chrysalis (Fig. 44) of the White