

neatly arranged case of butterflies was now nothing but a chaos of nibbled bodies, loose wings, pins and labels. I had not the heart at first to throw out these fragments, and so wipe out entirely the pleasing recollections each brought up in my mind of rambles through the woods and in the country, so carefully gathering up the wings I put them away in a little box. The idea then struck me of printing them as I had seen my old friend do them, and as I think it would be a very convenient way for Entomologists and Agriculturists to send butterflies for identification, when spare duplicates are to be had, I am induced to send a description of the *modus operandi* :

Take the insect in your left hand, holding it beneath the thorax ; then with a pair of sharply-pointed scissors cut off the wings as close to the body as possible. Occasionally, unless the scissors are very sharp, some of the muscles are torn away from the thorax with the wings ; these must be carefully removed. Arrange the wings in pairs and put them with the body on one side, in some convenient place where they may be easily got at when you are ready for them. Now take a piece of white paper of the size required, and fold it in two like a sheet of note-paper ; then with a camel-hair brush lay on a thin wash of perfectly clear gum-arabic, fold down the upper half and pass the hand lightly over it so as to spread the gum evenly between the two sides ; now re-open it, and taking up the wings with the tip of the brush, the lower ones first, arrange them carefully in the position wanted, leaving space enough intervening between the two pairs to paint in the body afterwards. Spare no pains in arranging the wings ; this corresponds with "setting" for a cabinet. I have seen many good collections of insects, made by amateurs, rendered almost useless by the want of a little thought on this point. The proper position for a butterfly to be set in is that which it takes when sunning itself. Copy nature and you cannot go wrong. When the wings are quite even, gently fold down the upper half of the paper and put your specimen under a heavy weight, or in a press, until quite dry. I generally leave mine for some hours at least. When it is quite dry take it out and place it against a window pane so that the butterfly may be clearly defined against the light. Now very carefully draw a line with a black lead pencil round the edges of the wings ; then lay it down on an even surface and paint with clean water all over the part outside and up to the outline. After a few minutes the water will saturate the paper and dissolve the gum ; the two sides will then separate easily, and this being done, it will be found that