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NATURE-PRINTED BUTTERFLIES.

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The season of warm days, flowers and butterflies is over now, and the look-out is cold, bleak and bare. Apparently there is little for the scientific lover of nature to do in the way of collections at this time of year ; such, however, is far from being actually the case, as all who have collected will testify. It is, in fact, one of the busiest seasons for collectors ; all the treasures gathered during the summer months have to be *gone through*. In the first place, those known have to be taken out and sorted away into their proper places in the cabinet ; the remainder then have to be re-sorted and divided up into sets according to the families to which they appear to belong, and after this they have to be examined critically, and, if possible, identified. It frequently happens that a collector of butterflies has an opportunity of capturing a large number of some local species in one day, and finds it impossible or irksome to set them all before they become too dry, as they will in a very short time in hot weather. When they are once dry, too, one is apt to think that as they can get no worse, they may safely be put aside until some more convenient occasion, to be relaxed and set up ; but this convenient occasion, like a good many others, is sometimes very long coming and many valuable specimens are consequently thus lost.

An accident which occurred to the glass of one of the drawers of my butterfly cabinet lately, was the means of reminding me of a process shown me some years ago by a Captain Lloyd, of the English Navy. The accident referred to was the breaking of the cover of one of my cases which contained some rare butterflies, in consequence of which it was impossible to close the door of the cabinet tightly. My horror can be better imagined than expressed when, upon opening the door and pulling out this drawer, about a fortnight afterwards, I found that there was not a single perfect specimen in it ; a mouse had got in, and what was once a