

ments of this kind in insects. We find the explanation of this peculiarity in a learned article on the nervous system of the cockroach, by Professor C. L. Miall and Alfred Denny, (Science Gossip. November 1884.) "Many familiar observations show that the ganglia of an insect possess great physiological independence. The limbs of decapitated, and even isolated segments, provided that they contain uninjured ganglia, exhibit unmistakable signs of life. Yersin and Baudelot's experiments imply that the ventral cord is divisible into an upper motor track and a lower sensory, *the centres of both motion and sensation lying in the ganglia exclusively.*"

The most remarkable thing about it is that the cerebro-spinal system can also produce movements. It has been discovered that the external impressions received through the sensitive nerves, not being able to be transmitted to the brain, since it is separated from the body are transmitted in the gray substance which occupies the centre of the spinal marrow where they are reflected so as to return to put the muscles in play by means of the motor nerves.

Let us return now to the first example. Since the animal is dead, it will be remarked, and its body consequently only inert matter, how can its body produce movements? How does it come to pass that it produces these without any excitation, as the beating of the heart for example? I may be permitted to reply to this question by comparison. When we suddenly stop the engine of a steamboat in motion we notice that the boat continues for some time on its way, on account of the momentum. It is thus with the organism of an animal deprived of life. Its organs continue to perform their functions for some time, then slacken their movements and finally cease. This is explained by the effects of vital energy surviving the energy itself, the same as in our comparison of the vessel continuing its way although the engine has stopped.

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The economic value of this insect to the agricultural community can hardly be estimated by one not thoroughly acquainted with its havoc and depredations made among those hurtful and obnoxious weeds known as nettles.

Almost all lepidopterous insects pass their larval stage on some particular plant whose leaves are more to their taste than those of any other, while others partake of a great variety, not being partial