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IT is useless to exalt one hobby above another and declare that entomology, botany, conchology, or any ology, is of all others the best; for every recreation we turn to in our spare moments, contains its own wordless charm, and its own special mode of ministering to our individual tastes; unintelligible to all but those who go forth on the same errand.

The study of insects contains more than it implies; there is the exhilaration of going to and fro with Nature to get them from life, pleasant association with the herbs, the flowers, the trees, and even the mosses and fungi, for every class in the botanical world maintains or harbours some form of insect life. Then the untranslatable delight, of finding a new specimen; or a well-known one with unfamiliar variations, comes as a challenge to our accuracy of sight and observation, and quickens our perceptive faculties.

Even the most casual observer must acknowledge that the increasing infatuation the study entails, is greater than would be generally

supposed by those who have not dipped into the subject.

If we consider insects attentively we are carried away into an enchanted world which we have hitherto been unconscious of, and as we travel on through its inviting regions, there are creatures on wings, and creatures on foot, to arrest and hold our admiration. For the first time we see beauties that were practically invisible before; arts, industries, and stratagems undreamt of, laws immutable to puzzle and enthrall. Those who have been lured into that bewitching realm by the vivid loveliness of a butterfly, or the brightness of a gnat, by watching their habits and noting their instincts, can readily understand the wonder, akin to awe, that creeps in at the contemplation of its inhabitants; and having once discovered the pleasure to be derived therefrom, they will deny themselves no effort henceforth to renew the experience.

By degrees interest and enthusiasm are awakened, then a longing comes over us to cultivate and extend our knowledge of that fairy-world, and make ourselves acquainted with the laws and principles of the combined warfare the occupants