

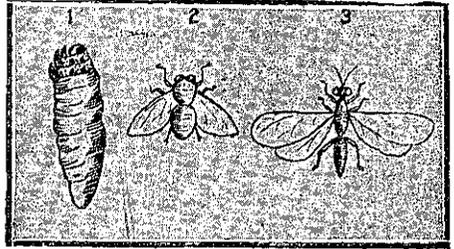
nut ; this exactly fits the recumbent position it requires for casting off the last grub suit, and to await in dormancy the day of its release. The future winged-shape is vaguely perceptible now, for it has wing cases, legs, and antennae, all beautifully enclosed in semi-transparent wrappings. But such a poor, helpless, white thing it is, looking about as comfortable as a boy tied up in a sack. After many weeks the colour grows visibly darker beneath the casings, and the occupant rouses to exertion, for the top of its head-gear has split. A little shudder thrills the insect through, and loosens the case ; by degrees the long-jointed antennae are carefully eased out, a leg is gently twirled and extricated, then a few more convulsive squirms and wriggles, aided by a continuous bobbing of the head, with extreme care and deliberation (as it stands a chance of going through life minus a leg, or with mutilated antennae if it were too hasty) away goes another half ; there now remains but a few decisive kicks and pushes to throw off the old, useless overall. It is a thrilling experience to watch, for the first time, a beetle thus deliver itself from the pupal bonds, and a grand lesson on patience and perseverance. The soft, ungainly, dwarf-winged insect has now to regain its breath and meditate on its deliverance, whilst the wing-cases, and wings, harden and develop.

After that it has only to support itself in the insect world, until old-age, or some other adversity in the form of a boy, or a bird carries it off.

They have a fierce kind of an air about them which is not justified by their harmlessness. As they usually roam around in the night season, they are often attracted by the glitter of the lamp-light, and create a great "flop" when they alight in one's room unannounced. They were facetiously dubbed "Dormitory Fleas" from this nocturnal habit, by the boys of a college not a hundred miles away.

BAG OR BASKET WORM.

One would scarcely believe if they watched the baby bag-worms crowd out from the dessicated remains of their mother, that she had ever been anything but a woolly nest made on purpose to keep them warm and secure. Such animated specks they are, too, as they set to work at their weaving, hatching, and helping each other to get a roof over their heads ; one works inside, and another helps with the outside



1.—Bag worm parasitised by 2 and 3.
2.—Diptera, natural size.
3.—Ichneumon much magnified.

until the cone-shaped home is finished. As they increase in stature many additions have to be made to the case to suit their needs ; for they grow and change inside, and have to move about from place to place with it on their back. They feed mostly at night, and during the day may be seen hanging from the shrubs they selected when they issued from their mother's tomb. Their house is a very uncommon kind of structure, and resembles a ragged or mossy twig, rather than a dwelling ; it is thatched with fragments of leaves, bits of stick, scraps of lichen, and the interior made warm and strong with a lining of brown, silky texture, too tough to tear apart, so arranged at the mouth that the inmate retains under its control the power to tightly close, or open it at will. As a preliminary to the chrysalis state, it secures the case to a branch by many strands of silk wound over and over, till the aperture and branch appears to be one. The neck of the case is drawn tightly in like