

This moth is closely allied to, if not a form of, *Attacus cynthia*, the Ailanthus silkworm, which Dr. Alexander Wallace attempted to introduce into England some years ago. It is a very handsome species in all its stages, as

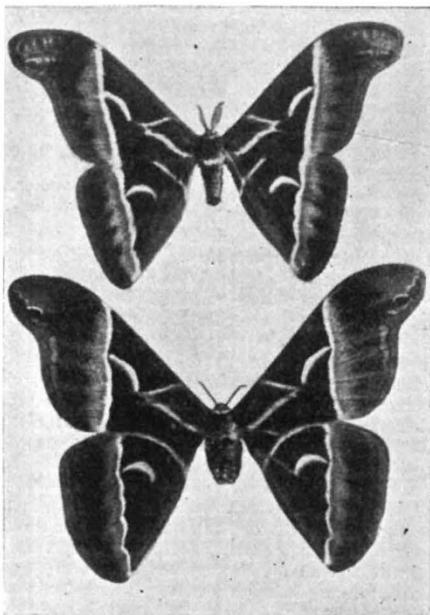


FIG. 1.—Adult male and female of *Attacus ricini*, Boisd., the Eri moth.

may be seen by the accompanying figures of the moths and caterpillars.

The castor-oil plant grows wild in the Philippines, and this silkworm is more easy to rear, and requires less care

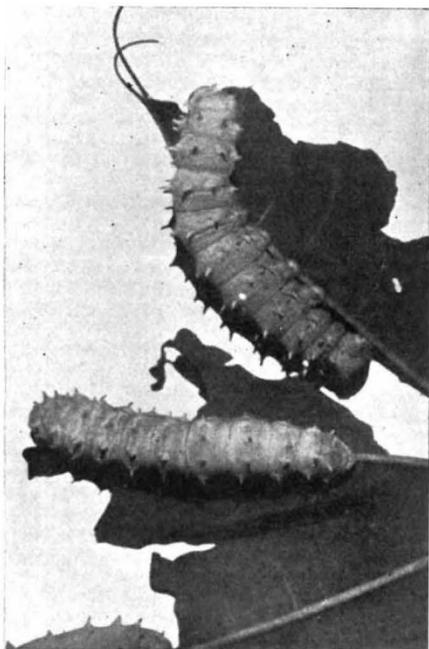


FIG. 2.—Eri silkworms ready to spin: half natural size.

than the mulberry silkworm. Several other silkworms are found in the Philippines, some of which may possibly be ultimately utilised as silk-producers.

Enemies and diseases of silkworms are discussed. The

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most important of the former are ants, rats, and mice; and hitherto it has been possible to keep silkworms in the Philippines almost entirely free from disease, by constant care and supervision.

Other matters treated of in this useful pamphlet are the silk house, the mulberry, shipping eggs, the silk trade of the Philippines, &c. The plates illustrate the mulberry and Eri silkworms in all their stages, cocoons of *Antheraea semperi*, one of the wild silkworms, a mulberry nursery and plantation, plans of a silk house, and various machines used for silk-weaving, &c.

This pamphlet is a good illustration of what may be accomplished by a little energy and foresight in the way of introducing a profitable industry into a comparatively new locality.

W. F. K.

THE RECENT FROST.

THE closing days of January and the early days in February witnessed a keen frost over the British Isles, but from the current weather changes it seems probable that the frost has come to an abrupt termination. At Greenwich the temperature fell below the freezing point each night for ten consecutive days, from January 27 to February 5. The lowest shade temperature was 19° , recorded on January 29 and February 3, whilst the lowest maximum day temperature was 27° , on February 4, which day also had the lowest mean of maximum and minimum temperatures— 24° . The mean maximum or day temperature at Greenwich for the ten days was 35° , which is 10° below the average of the last fifty years, and the mean of the lowest night temperatures 24° , which is 11° below the average; the mean of the maxima and minima for the whole period was 30° . At the meteorological station at Hampstead the shade temperature on February 3 was 16° , and on the surface of the grass the thermometer registered 6° . In the frost of 1894-5 the average temperature at Greenwich for the whole of February, 1895, was 29° , and in the frost of 1890-1 the mean for December, 1890, was also 29° . Both these frosts were, however, much more prolonged than the spell just experienced. The recent frost was more keen over the country generally than any experienced since the winter of 1894-5, when special trains were run for London skaters to Loch Lomond, which *The Times* of February 6 reports now to be covered for about a mile with good sheet-ice—the first occasion for the last seventeen years. A region of high barometer was centred over the British Isles during the early period of the frost to the close of January, but during the latter period of the frost the barometer was low over England, and the atmospheric conditions were complex in character.

A summary of the weather issued by the Meteorological Office for the week ending February 3, which embraces the severest weather of the recent cold spell, shows that the temperature was much below the average over the entire kingdom, the deficiency amounting to 10° in the south-west of England and the Midland counties, and to about 9° in several other parts of Britain. The lowest temperatures are said to have occurred on February 3 over the kingdom generally. Some of the lowest shade temperatures reported are 4° at Balmoral on February 2, 4° at Nairn on February 5, 9° at Llangammarch Wells, in the south-west of England, on February 3. The lowest readings on the surface of the grass were -0.3° at Norwich at 11 p.m. on February 2, and 0° (zero) at Balmoral and Burnley.

SKULLS AND PHYSIOGNOMY.

AT the present time anatomists are divided as regards the possibility of reconstructing from the skull the appearance of the face and head during life. Those interested in this problem will find a recent pamphlet by Prof. von Eggeling, of Jena (*"Physiognomie und Schaedel,"* Fischer, Jena, 1911, price 1.20 marks), of the greatest assistance, for the author has summarised in a very clear manner the various results obtained by previous investigators, and added his own observations. Such researches were at first employed to ascertain whether the skulls, which were alleged to be those of famous men, really corresponded with their death-masks. In 1867 Prof.