

ther prison to break through; but this they perform in a short time; for the butterfly, freed from its aurelia skin butts with its head against the walls of its artificial prison; thus it soon forces its way through, and in less than a quarter of an hour acquires its full perfection.

The number of these beautiful animals is very great; and though Linnæus has reckoned up above seven hundred and sixty different kinds, the catalogue is still very incomplete. Every collector of butterflies can shew undescribed species; and such as are fond of minute discovery, can here produce animals that have been examined only by himself. In general, however, those of the warmer climates are larger and more beautiful than such as are bred in this country.

The wings of butterflies are very different from those of any other fly: they have four in number, and though two of them be cut off, the animal is still enabled to fly. They are, in their own substance, transparent, but owe their opacity to the beautiful dust with which they are covered. The wing of the butterfly being observed with a good microscope, it will be seen to be studded over with a variety of little grains,
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