

configuration of the antennæ and wings. The latter consist of flat membranous expansions, supported by hollow tubes or nervures; and in some orders consist of one pair, and in others of two. In burrowing insects, as the Beetle, the front pair of wings constitutes a hard case (*elytron*), which covers and protects the membranous posterior pair, when the animal is in repose, or walking. The modifications of the wings furnish the characters by which the class is divided into orders. Thus the *Coleoptera* (sheathed-wings) comprise the beetles and other burrowing insects, in which the membranous wings are folded transversely beneath the *elytra*, or wing-cases. *Neuroptera* (nerved-wings), those with two pairs of transparent reticulated wings, as the *Libellula*, or Dragon-fly. *Hymenoptera* (membranous-wings), with simply veined membranous wings, as the Bee. *Lepidoptera* (scaly-wings), having wings covered with scales, as the Butterfly. *Diptera* (two-wings), the anterior pair of wings only being the instruments for flying, and the hinder pair reduced to mere clavate appendages, as the Fly. With these few remarks on those durable parts of the structure of Insects, which their fossil remains generally present, we must quit this inviting subject, and enter upon the examination of the relics which are the immediate objects of our present inquiry.

From the enduring nature of the *elytra*, segments, and articulated extremities of insects; the fossil remains of animals of this class might naturally be