

its bosom. Amongst insects, though there are many that burrow, none is more remarkable than the *mole-cricket*.* The most superficial observer, when he looks at this creature, must see at once, from its structure, especially that of its fore-legs, what its function is. If he compares other crickets with it, a singular change will strike him, the bulk of the posterior thighs, far exceeding that of the same joint in the other legs, will appear to be chiefly transferred to the anterior pair of legs, which, the size of the creature considered, are as powerful instruments for excavating the earth as can be found in any animal now in existence: all the joints of this leg are very much dilated, especially the haunch and the thigh, which contain the powerful muscles that move the apparatus for burrowing. This consists of a triangular joint, the analogue of the shank of the other legs, but assuming the form of a hand with the palm turned outwards, as in the mole, and terminating in four strong claw-like digitations; on the side next the head these fingers, in the middle, are longitudinally elevated and naked; while the sides are longitudinally excavated and hairy, which give this part some resemblance to the foot and claws of burrowing quadrupeds. The thigh is hollowed out underneath, evidently to receive the joint just described, and overhanging this cavity, at the base, is a stout triangular tooth, which probably is employed to clean the hand when necessary; on the outside, opposed to the hand, is the analogue of the tarsus, consisting of three joints, the first two large and triangular, with the upper edge curved and the lower straight and hairy at the base, the other is of the ordinary form, and armed with two straight claws. These teeth, as well as those of the shank, have a trenchant edge on the straight side, and together are supposed to act the part of a pair of shears, and to cut any roots that may interfere with

* *Gryllotalpa*.