THE CULTURE OF THE SILK-WORM.

In Linné's \textit{Systema Naturae}, there is a collection of the most valuable lessons in regard to the rearing of silkworms, and the preparation of silk in its earlier stages. Several species, which become moths, have gained the designation of \textit{the dog of brass}, because they have been domesticated from the most ancient times, and have lost a great part of their strength in the process. The silk-cocoon is not strong enough to sustain itself in the air, nor even on the leaves of the mulberry, when they are posted by the wind. The female, always on the move, and therefore subject to its caprices, cannot be long. After three generations of weaving in the open air, the moths recover their lost power.

The history of silk cultivation knew itself in antiquity; but China is generally given the credit of possessing the first knowledge on the subject. The name of the Emperor Yao is even mentioned as the one who first succeeded in weaving the cocoon and in marketing the silk. This is said to have been done about six hundred years before our era; and it is also said that, prior to this discovery, the Chinese saw the silkworms for food. It is questionable if this emperor was a woman, and only a Chinese statesman who represents the birth and growth of this important agricultural and textile industry. It is certain that the old emperors were protected by the monarchs, whose empires were extended over the different provinces, which encouraged their vassals and prohibited their destruction. The expectation of the silk-worm was sufficiently founded.

India and China had their silks at very early days, but probably obtained the material from China.

In the time of Alexander the Great, silk was not worth its weight in gold, and was known to this day. The history of silk was naturally carried by the Eastern states. Julius Caesar introduced it into Greece, and sometimes employed the course sent, used to keep the silk and vellum from the seasonable, with the deck of the decks. The popular firmness in the same industry, but exaggerated the great amount of silk produced. However, it is, and sometimes employed the course sent, useful to keep the silk and vellum from the seasons, with the deck of the decks. The popular firmness in the same industry, but exaggerated the great amount of silk produced. However, it is, and sometimes employed the course sent, useful to keep the silk and vellum from the seasons, with the deck of the decks. The popular firmness in the same industry, but exaggerated the great amount of silk produced. However, it is, and sometimes employed the course sent, useful to keep the silk and vellum from the seasons, with the deck of the decks. The popular firmness in the same industry, but exaggerated the great amount of silk produced. However, it is, and sometimes employed the course sent, useful to keep the silk and vellum from the seasons, with the deck of the decks. The popular firmness in the same industry, but exaggerated the great amount of silk produced. However, it is, and sometimes employed the course sent, useful to keep the silk and vellum from the seasons, with the deck of the decks.
period in the day after the last month. Where the worms awake from their sleep they are liable to various diseases, and hence require the strictest care and watching.

When the cocoons are completed, the person in charge extracts them from thepeater, and rolls them up. The chrysalis within the cocoon must first be destroyed, in order to prevent the moth from piercing its outer covering. This is done by passing the cocoon in steam, in which the chrysalis is killed.
The cocoons which are collected in order to produce silk for the next year are fixed on sheets of brown paper, covered with a slight coating of paste. Male and female cocoons, ascertained by the fact that the female is always the heavier, are kept on separate sheets. When the moths appear, they are excited by the wings and placed on cloths covered with silk for the purpose. They generate a red liquid; the males and females are then placed together; after copulation the males are removed. Sheets of paper are placed on screens, called inclines, on which the females are laid. Here the moths lay their eggs. The sheets of paper, covered with eggs, are then hung in a warm room which is never warmed. Here they remain until the1880.]

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

moths emerge.

Having thus given a rapid survey of the method of rearing the silkworm, a few words in reference to the winding of the cocoons may be of interest. This is an operation requiring great patience, a steady attention, and a most exceptional delicacy of touch. The woman who is winding the threads before a sort of frame known as the hanger. Under her hand in a copper containing water, which has been in the1881.

required degree by opening the top of a tube, which brings a current of steam. The worker dips the cocoon into hot water, and moves them about to get the gummy substance which sticks the silk threads of the cocoon together. Then she begins with a light thread, with a small brush. She now attempts to make up a staple, or thread, by winding together the ends of five cocoons. The two ends are held in a mass, and introduced into the hole of a frame, called the spool. Two staples are made at once. One on the right hand, the other on the left. The worker then brings them together, crosses them, rolls them, and then turns them, the one on the other, several times, after which she separates them from above and keeps them well apart, making each of them pass into a box as a distinct form, which are going to twist round from a base, separately, on a wheel. The two threads thus wound are then close together, compressed, and become one, getting round by rolling on each other, and being kept in constant motion, drawn out so they are by the rapid motion of the wheel.