the wings of animals which cannot fly; for example, the wings of the running birds, like the ostrich, emeu, cassowary, etc., the legs of which have become exceedingly developed. These birds having lost the habit of flying, have consequently lost the use of their wings; however, the wings are still there, although in a crippled form. We very frequently find such crippled wings in the class of insects, most members of which can fly.

From reasons derived from comparative anatomy and other circumstances, we can with certainty draw the inference that all insects now living (all grasshoppers, beetles, bees, bugs, flies, butterflies, etc.) have originated from a single common parental form, from a primary insect which possessed two well-developed pairs of wings, and three pairs of legs. Yet there are very many insects in which either one or both pairs of wings have become more or less degenerated, and many in which they have even completely disappeared. For example, in the whole order of flies or Diptera, the hinder pair of wings—in the bee-parasites or Strepsiptera, on the other hand, the fore pair of wings—have become degenerated or entirely disappeared. Moreover, in every order of insects we find individual genera, or species, in which the wings have more or less degenerated or disappeared. The latter is the case especially in parasites. The females have frequently no wings, whereas the males have; for instance, in the case of glow-worms (Lampyris), Strepsiptera, etc. This partial or complete degeneration of the wings of insects has evidently arisen from natural selection in the struggle for life. For we find insects without wings living under circumstances where flying would be useless, or even decidedly injurious to