
you may draw from its body a thread of silver, or both threads together; their union giving silk of a light yellow color."

Spider's Silk.

SPEAKING of the silk produced by a certain species of spider—*Nephila plumipes*—Dr. Wilder says: "If you can picture to yourself a mass of pure, yellow gold, which not only reflects the light as from a smooth and polished surface, but which has all the depth and softness of liquid amber, you may realize in some degree the wonderful appearance of a sheet of spider's silk as seen in the sunshine; and even in the shade its lustre is greater than that of gold. But to compare the silk to gold is to tell only one half the story; for the same spider yields silver as well, so that

It is said that the thread of a certain species of spider—found in the South—supports a weight of 54 grains. As this fibre is only the one four-thousandth of an inch in diameter, this is at the rate of 123,427 pounds, or 61½ tons per square inch. Good iron wire sustains 57 tons per inch; good steel, 66 tons; good gun-metal, 80 tons.