

again; but some, like the redbreast and titmice, are not so readily alarmed. A wasp encumbered by the struggles of a large fly, which it had caught, bit its wings off, and then bore it away with ease: the same with a sand wasp, which attempted to draw a small moth into its hole, but being prevented by the wings of the insect it separated them and the legs from the body, and thus secured it. Dages saw a spider which had seized a bee by the back, and effectually prevented it from taking flight; but the legs being at liberty it dragged the spider along, which presently suspended it by a thread from its web, leaving it in the air to dangle till it was dead, when it was drawn up and devoured. The use of experience becomes more marked and extensive with age, the higher we ascend in the scale of life. Thus, old birds are not so easily approached within gun-shot as young ones; old foxes are less easily caught in traps, and old stags show more cunning. On newly-discovered islands, the birds and animals have no fear of man, and the seals and other amphibians do not move at his approach; but a very short experience teaches them in what their safety consists. In tracts where the art of trapping has never been practised, the animals are at first caught in numbers, but by degrees they become more wary, and the hunter is compelled to use greater stratagems. In woods which are much hunted, the game is more shy and vigilant, while it seems fully to comprehend the sanctity of a preserve. — *Thompson's Passions of Animals.*

TAYLOR'S BEE-KEEPER'S MANUAL.—A FOURTH edition of this useful work has just been published by Messrs. Groombridge; it contains such new information and instructions as have been brought to light and suggested by experience. From the natural history of the bee, the author treats of the various kinds of hives, the modes of management, and shows how bees may best be kept with profit and advantage. It is pretty well known that in order to be successful with bees, the person who tends them should show no signs of fear. Accidents, it is true, seldom happen; but Mr. Taylor recommends the use of a screen or dress made of thin muslin, which covers the head and face, is tied round the waist, and fitted with sleeves. With this, and a pair of thick woolen gloves no danger is to be feared. The author states that bees may be kept in health by proper care: "all their pretended diseases," as he observes, "are the result of cold, hunger, or the infection produced by a too close and long confinement during the winter." He says further, that no particular set of rules will apply in all cases for the keeping of bees; but that each bee-keeper should endeavour to suit his practice according to the situation of his hives, the nature and productions of the soil, climate, and so on. This is a hint well worth attending to, as many persons fall from not taking the trouble to think for themselves.

THE COCOA-NUT PALM-TREE.—When the Cin-galese villager has felled one of these trees after it has ceased bearing, (say in its seventieth year,) with its trunk he builds his hut, and his bullock stall, which he thatches with its leaves. His bolts and bars are slips of the bark; by which he also suspends the small shelf which holds his stock of home-made utensils and vessels. He fences his little plot of chillies, tobacco, and fine grain, with the leaf stalks. The infant is swung to sleep in a rude net of coil-string, made from the husk of the fruit; its meal of rice and scraped cocoa-nut is boiled over a fire of cocoa-nut shells, and husks, and is eaten off a dish formed of the plaited green leaves of the tree, with a spoon cut out of the nut-shell. When he goes a fishing by torch-light, his net is of cocoa-nut fibre; the torch or *chule* is a bundle of dried cocoa-nut leaves and flower stalks; the little canoe is a trunk of the cocoa palm-tree, hollowed by his own hands. He carries home his net and his string of fish on a yoke, or *pingo*, formed of a cocoa-nut stalk. When he is thirsty, he drinks of the fresh juice of the young nut; when he is hungry, he eats its soft kernel. If he has a mind to be merry, he sips a glass of arrack, distilled from the fermented juice of the palm, and dances to the music of rude cocoa-nut castanets; if he be weary, he quaffs toddy of the unfermented juice, and flavors his curry with vinegar made from this toddy. Should he be sick, his body will be rubbed with cocoa-nut oil; he sweetens his coffee with *jaggary*, or cocoa-nut sugar, and softens it with cocoa-nut milk; it is sipped by the light of a lamp, constructed from a cocoa-nut shell, and fed by cocoa-nut oil. His doors, his windows, his shelves, his chair, the water-gutter under the eaves, all are made from the wood of the tree. His spoons, his forks, his basins, his mugs, his salt-cellars, his jars, his child's money-box, are all constructed from the shell of the nut. Over his couch when born, and over his grave when buried, a bunch of cocoa-nut blossoms is hung to charm away evil spirits.—*Dicken's Household Words.*

ANECDOTE OF AN ELEPHANT.—An officer of the Bengal army had a favorite elephant, which was supplied daily in presence with a certain allowance of food, but being compelled to absent himself on a journey, the keeper of the beast diminished the ration of food, and the animal became daily thinner and weaker. When its master returned, the elephant exhibited the greatest signs of pleasure; the feeding time came, and the keeper laid before it the former full allowance of food, which it divided into two parts, consuming one immediately and leaving the other untouched. The officer, knowing the sagacity of his favorite, saw immediately the fraud that had been committed, and made the man confess his crime.