

different instinct of laying on the standing corn.\* Some hunting spiders, when they have eggs and young, give up hunting and spin a web wherewith to catch prey: this is the case with a *Salticus*, which lays its eggs within snail-shells, and at that time spins a large vertical web.† The pupæ of a species of *Formica* are *sometimes*‡ uncovered, or not enclosed within cocoons; this certainly is a highly remarkable variation; the same thing is said to occur with the common *Pulex*. Lord Brougham§ gives us a remarkable case of instinct, namely, the chicken within the shell pecking a hole and then "chipping with its bill-scale till it has cut off a segment from the shell. It always moves from right to left, and it always cuts off the segment from the big end." But the instinct is not quite so invariable, for I was assured at the Eccalobeion (May, 1840) that cases have occurred of chickens having commenced so close to the broad end, that they could not escape from the hole thus made, and had consequently to commence chipping again so as to remove another and larger rim of shell: moreover occasionally they have begun at the narrow end of the shell. The fact of the occasional regurgitation of its food by the Kangaroo|| ought, perhaps, to be considered as due to an intermediate or variable modification of structure, rather than of instinct; but it is worth notice. It is notorious that the same species of Bird has slightly different vocal powers in different districts; and an excellent observer remarks that "an Irish covey of Partridges springs without uttering a call, whilst on the opposite coast the Scotch covey shrieks with all its might when sprung."¶ Bechstein says that from many years' experience he is certain that in the nightingale a tendency to sing in the middle of the night or in the day runs in families and is strictly inherited.\*\* It is remarkable that many birds have the capacity of piping long and difficult tunes, and others, as the Magpie, of imitating

\* Bonnet, quoted by Kirby and Spence, *Entomology*, vol. ii, p. 480.

† Dugès in *Ann. des Sci. Nat.*, 2nd series, tome vi, p. 186.

‡ F. Smith in *Trans. Ent. Soc.*, vol. iii, N.S., Pt. iii, p. 97; and De Geer, quoted by Kirby and Spence, *Entomology*, vol. iii, p. 227.

§ *Dissertation on Natural Theology*, vol. i, p. 117.

|| W. C. Martin in *Mag. of Nat. Hist.*, N.S., vol. ii, p. 323.

¶ W. Thompson, in *Nat. Hist. Ireland*, vol. ii, p. 65, says that he has observed this, and that it is well known to sportsmen.

\*\* *Stuben-vögel*, 1840, s. 323. See on different powers of singing in different places, s. 205 and 265.