

The peculiar structure of the ant's alimentary track was described in some detail, with its "social" and "individual" stomachs, which enable the insects not only to store their liquid food in the most economical manner but also to distribute it equally among the various members of the colony both larval and adult. For the purpose of illustrating this portion of the lecture more fully, the various adaptations of ants to living in very dry regions, such as deserts, were examined, and it was shown that these insects have evolved four very different methods of circumventing the difficulties inseparable from life under conditions that imply a great scarcity of their natural insect food. A certain number of species have exaggerated their primitive predatory instincts and have become rapacious hunters (e.g. the species of *Cataglyphis* in the North African deserts). Others have taken to storing quantities of liquid food in the crops, or social stomachs of certain workers of the colony for the purpose of tiding over the long droughts (e.g. the honey ants of the South-western States and Australia belonging to the genera *Myrmecocystus*, *Melophorus*, *Camponotus*, *Leptomyrmex*, etc.). Other species have become agricultural or harvesting ants (the species of *Messor*, *Pogonomyrmex*, many species of *Meranoplus*, *Pheidole*, *Solenopsis*, etc.), and have therefore become addicted to a vegetable diet. These forms store the seeds of various desert plants in their nests. Lastly, a group of American ants, comprising the species of *Atta* and allied genera, has learned to grow fungi for food on pieces of leaves, caterpillar excrement or other vegetable detritus. Although this habit seems to have originated in the moist woods of South and Central America, several of the species which acquired it were able by its means to invade the deserts of the Mexican plateau and of the South-western States and thus to remain independent of the precarious supply of insect food peculiar to those regions. This represents the most specialized stage of ant dietetics.

The protective instincts of ants, apart from their stinging and biting proclivities, attain their most striking expression in the construction of the nests. The various types of these structures were briefly considered: the small crater nests in the soil, the nests under stones and in wood, the larger mound nests, which are characterized by a superstructure of accumulated vegetable