

vated land, and everywhere over the tens of thousands of acres we passed were laid the gossamer threads of spiders, so thickly set that I doubt if one could have placed as much as a finger tip anywhere in the fields without touching several strands of the webs. Every tall weed and every fence streamed with the threads, and towards evening the rays of the westering sun were reflected from the shimmering fields like moonlight on a lake. All this was the work of so-called gossamer spiders, formerly thought to be a distinct kind but now known to include the young of many different species. The number of individuals necessary to produce the wonderful effect must have been stupendous indeed, for our drive did not circumscribe the area thus affected, and no doubt the same condition obtained for many miles around our course.

Spiders are always connected in the popular mind with the spinning of webs and snares to catch the unwary fly, but a great many species resort to no such subterfuge. Of course, all true spiders can spin, but many use their silk only for the manufacture of egg-bags or to line their burrows, or as a life-line by which they can drop from danger or save themselves from a fall. Chief among those that spin no web may be mentioned the Attids or Jumping Spiders which leap on their victims unawares; the Thomisids or Crab Spiders that lie in wait in flowers to seize insects that come in search of nectar; and the Lycosids or Wolf Spiders, exceedingly active runners, that hunt down their quarry in much the same manner as their mammal namesakes. Of these three families the Wolf Spiders are by far the commonest, and are found everywhere in great variety. The original of the accompanying "portrait" belonged to a rather small-sized species numerous inhabiting a sandy beach on the shores of the Ottawa River near Arnprior. The claw terminating the palp shows this specimen to be a female, for the palps of male spiders end in a curious knob-like organ. This species, which is a typically swift runner, is thickly clothed with very fine, light brown hair, with darker markings—it might almost be called a "fur"—a coloration well calculated to conceal it in its sandy habitat. Indeed, I seldom saw one of these spiders on my frequent visits to this spot during the summer, but one day in the late autumn I noticed the surface of the beach dotted with scores of tiny heaps of fresh, damp sand. On investiga-