

PARASITISM, SYMBIOSIS AND COMMENSALISM.—When one organism lives in or upon another, and feeds at that other's expense, as an unbidden guest, without benefiting its host in any way, we call the condition parasitism. But there are many cases where the two beings form a physiological partnership, and these are generally included under the name symbiosis. The members of the firm may be both animals, or both plants, or one may be an animal and the other a plant. In some the association is so close that it is exceedingly difficult to determine that they are indeed two beings, and not one. For many years, for example, in some radiolarians little yellow bodies had been noticed. They were seen to possess a well-defined nucleus and a cell-wall, and they were looked upon at one time as spores, at another as secretory cells; but later it was found that, though the radiolarian might die, yet the yellow bodies would survive and multiply. They were, in fact, minute algæ, and, though they lived in the radiolarian, the host and the guests both prospered: for the host gave off carbonic acid and nitrogenous products, which formed the best food for his guests, the algæ; and these in their

turn evolved oxygen, and so supplied one of the chief wants of the radiolarian. Each profited by the association. In other cases the union is much less intimate, and these have been differentiated by name under the term Commensalism. There is a hermit crab, who carries about with him attached to his shell, or even his claw, a sea-anemone. When the crab feeds, the anemone shares the feast, and, moreover, enjoys the benefits of free locomotion, though little able to move itself. In its turn it serves to protect the crab by hiding him, and may also aid in killing or numbing his prey: and when the time comes that the crab must seek a new shell, he carefully assists his partner to change his home, also showing how greatly he appreciates the union. To other examples of this sort of partnership we have referred elsewhere in an account of the additions which have been made to the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England during the past year. An acacia tree finds itself in danger of destruction by ants and other insects, and enlists in its service a tribe of ants, who are not only innocuous, but ready to fight for the plant and keep off its foes. But the ants

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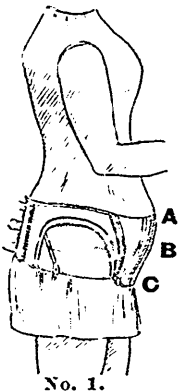
TORONTO, April 7th, 1894.

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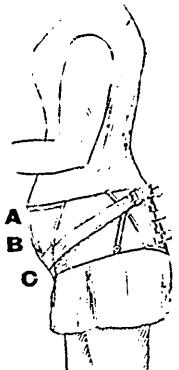
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