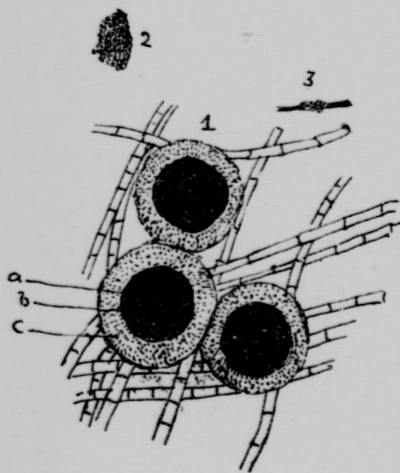


forms and habits, renders them peculiarly interesting. They belong, it is hardly necessary to point out, to the class Arachnoidea, which embraces the spiders, mites and scorpions, and includes, amongst other orders, the Araneina or true spiders, the Acarina or mites, the Pæcilopoda or King-crabs, in the opinion of some eminent zoologists, and other interesting groups. To the Acarina belong the cheese-mites (*Tyroglyphus*), the parasitic skin-mites (*Desmodex*), and others which are destitute of tracheæ, or special breathing organs, and the harvest-mites (*Trombidium*), the bird- and beetle-mites (*Gamasus*), the dog- and cattle-ticks (*Ixodes*), and the water-mites (*Atax*, *Hydrachna*, &c.). The possession of an unsegmented abdomen united to a cephalothorax is an important feature in the mites.

In a small vessel, containing various aquatic animals, I had two specimens of *Hydrachna sulcata* obtained in McKay's Lake,

Rockcliffe, in May. On June 24th, my little daughter, a very assiduous observer, called my attention to a granular mass, amongst some green *Confervæ*, which had the appearance of microscopic pellets of a bright scarlet hue. Some were attached to a small twig (fig. 3), and an adult *Hydrachna* was seated upon them, apparently in the act of depositing these minute ova. Later in the day two other masses were laid, some being attached to the floor



of the vessel. In all, I counted nearly three hundred eggs, and their brilliant colour was exactly that of the parent *Hydrachna*. After being laid, they remained slightly adhesive, as is the case with so many aquatic eggs, and became firmly cemented to each other and to adjacent objects, when the adhesive coat hardened under water. Each egg was perfectly spherical; but,