

of the structure, therefore, its contents were exposed when it was detached from its position. It contained the larva of the hymenopter and two fresh looking caterpillars, which it devoured together with a common fly that I gave it on the following day. The larva is about half an inch long, flesh-colored, smooth and glossy, having about thirteen rings. It has since lined the interior of its nest with a coating of fine white silken threads. It is difficult to explain the use of the button-like form which is always on the top of the nest of this wasp. When I found the nest, it contained two small caterpillars which only served the larva one day, and it afterwards devoured common houseflies. Can it be that the button or top is removed by the parent insect in order to supply its progeny with additional food? When the architecture of this wasp is newly formed, the top has a regular concavity, and the edges are well rounded and sharp, which is the case with the specimen found on the 25th July. The top of specimens found early in spring, and which were exposed during winter, are not so perfect, and after making allowance for exposure to the weather, I am led to think that the parent insect opens the top of the nest to supply the larva with additional food, reconstructing it with less regularity than the original form: the top is evidently the last part of the structure finished. There is no other substance but clay or mud and sand used by the parent insect, and it is not until the larva had finished feeding, and devours the material supplied to it, that it lines the walls of its cell. The economy of this insect is not yet thoroughly investigated. I may have another opportunity of doing so.

*Fig. 2.*—The three nests above figured were found attached to the bark of a stump in the same locality where the former specimen was found. They belong to a different genus, and the architecture corresponds with that of the genus *Osmia*, an European mason-bee, the cells of which are figured in Rennie's *Insect Architecture*, p. 41, fig. 2. The nests of this insect are made of clay and sand, but they are smaller than those of *Osmia bicornis* of Europe. There are three series of cells illustrated in this work, two of which produced the last-named insect, and from the third came *Megachile muraria*, and a dipterous parasite. The author is evidently at fault, as the similarity of structure represented by the illustrations are alone sufficient to show the work of one species. *M. muraria* Linn., is a sand-burrowing bee, and I am not aware that it is a parasite on