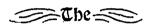
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For the GAZKITK.

A PAPER HOUSE.

There are two varieties of wasps that build paper moistened with a fluid the insect secretes. houses, one, a large wasp, with the abdominal amount of room for the structure.

building their houses, but (owing to the habits of the yellow wasp of concealing its nest,) never had an opportunity, until this year, of observing its methods of building or its domestic habits. In the house I reside in there is a door facing the cast, with a recess of about ten inches. The door has a glass porch. This spring, I was agreeably surprised to find a yellow paper wasp had departed from its usual habits, and had commenced the construction of its house at the top of the recess of the door, at a few inches from one corner, and in full view through the glass panels of the door, giving me a chance, (which I have improved with a naturalist's ardor) to safely observe its methods of construction and also to some extent its home life.

Before giving the observed details of construction, a few words on the structure of the insect and its method of obtaining the material for paper, will assist the reader in understanding its methods of work. The general anatomy of this wasp is Many of your readers have seen the paper house much like that of the common honey bee, with the constructed by the paper wasp, or hornet, as they exception of the head; this, in the wasp, is larger, are sometimes called; but probably few have ever more triangular in shape, and is provided with a seen the process of building them; or have ever larger pair of cutting forceps. The material it carefully examined their interior. And, indeed, uses for paper is obtained from old wood, that has knowing the well-known temper of the insect, and been exposed to the weather, so that the fibre is their well-known "hot foot." few would care to get soft. These fibres it scrapes off with its mandibles near enough to their nests when in course of con- with great care, to secure the finest and softest struction, to watch their method of building portions, and it is made into paper pulp by being

The old mother wasp commenced her home by rings colored light gray and black alternately, firmly cementing a portion of paper pulp in a cirwhich builds its houses in low shrubs principally, cle, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, to sometimes in bush piles and under trees that the wood of the recess. This was the foundation have partly fallen. The house of this wasp, is of from which the future structure was to depend. pyriform shape and is not an uncommon object Then commencing at the edge of the foundation, in the pastures and clearings of this country. The working backwards, round the circle, building other paper wasp is much smaller, and the abdom- less than a sixteenth of an inch in width at each inal rings are marked alternately black and bright round, she slowly supplying the pulp from the yellow. This wasp usually builds its paper houses mandibles, and laying the material smooth and under an old tree stump, or under a mass of roots thin with her two first feet, constructed an almost of shrubs that for some cause have been lifted perfect sphere of paper, an inch in diameter, leaving from the soil sufficiently to give the requisite an entrance at the bottom just large enough to enable her to creep in. This was the first story of I have often observed the first mentioned wasps the house, and occupied nearly three days time of