

## CHAPTER II

### THE CICADA: LEAVING THE BURROW

TO come back to the Cicada after Réaumur<sup>1</sup> has told the insect's story would be waste of time, save that the disciple enjoys an advantage unknown to the master. The great naturalist received the materials for his work from my part of the world; his subjects came by barge after being carefully preserved in spirits. I, on the other hand, live in the Cicada's company. When July comes, he takes possession of the enclosure right up to the threshold of the house. The hermitage is our joint property. I remain master indoors; but out of doors he is the sovereign lord and an extremely noisy and abusive one. Our near neighbourhood and constant association

<sup>1</sup> René Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur (1683-1757), inventor of the Réaumur thermometer and author of *Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire naturelle des insectes*.  
—Translator's Note.