

material may be used by the same species to construct their "cow-sheds" or tents.

As we concluded in our memoir, "There is no doubt that this habit of building detritus and carton tents has developed for no other purpose than that of protecting the various species of aphides which are kept by the ants for the sake of their honey-like secretions. By the construction of such "cow-sheds" the aphides are able to continue sucking the juices of the plant and at the same time they are not only protected from their enemies, but also from alien ants. The protection from cold is also important, as Brandes (in 'Die Blattlaus und der Honigbau,' *Zeitschrift f. Natur wiss.*, vol. 66, 1894), has found that aphides are most active during the warmer part of the day, so that in keeping these warm the ants would also be obtaining a large supply of the secretion from them. In addition to these explanations of the tent-building habits of ants, Wheeler also suggests that the tents may be to prevent the escape of the aphides to other plants or other parts of the same plant.

"The evolution of the forms of the tents which are found in the different genera of tent-building ants may have started with the small earthen cell covering a few aphides; this may have been constructed either on the stem or by filling the space formed by the inrolling of certain of the leaves. Further enlargement and elaboration would lead to the formation of a spherical or cylindrical tent having the stem as axis, and finally, to secure for themselves the greatest comfort and convenience, the ants would connect these tents either with the earth or with their subterranean nests by means of covered passages."

This great adaptability to its environment, the usage of the means at hand and variability of constructive power in a single species of insect such as *Lasius niger*, is of very great interest to the entomologist who becomes so accustomed to the fact of a certain species of insect making nests or structures of a particular and more or less fixed type, such as we find in the other social and solitary hymenoptera as the bees and wasps, and also in other orders of insects.

BOOK REVIEW.

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