

tion, will lie prone on its side; moths, too, will mimic death by lying on their backs. Beetles will feign death in the same way.

Battle within battle must, Darwin says, throughout nature, be continually recurring with varying success. The weak suffer at the hands of the stronger, and they, having no other means of protection against a stronger enemy, have recourse to various strategies. If the caterpillar does not exhibit the protective resemblance, it may be it is unnecessary, that there are other means of protection existing. There are, for instance, many caterpillars that may be said to be quite conspicuous by their brilliant colouring. But no bird will touch them. Their safeguard, no doubt, is that they taste nasty, and their bright colours thus serve to protect them. Other forms of insect life escape elimination through the development of offensive weapons, such as the sting of wasps and bees. Animals which prey upon these forms learn to avoid them, and thus it becomes an advantage to other insects not possessing such means of protection to mimic them. And so we have that venomous-looking insect the great *Sirex gigas*, and the clear-wing hornet moth, *Sphecia apiformis*, with its abdomen arrayed in the bright colours of the hornet, and its sting-like projection and ovipositor. Yet this is a quite inoffensive and harmless insect.

As in the case of protective resemblance, so too, in its aggressive correlative, the resemblance may be general or special, or may reach the climax of mimicry. Hence, what may serve as a protective resemblance, may also enable the prey to steal upon its enemy. The cuckoo bee *Psithyrus rupestris*, an idle queen, who collects no pollen, and has no pollen baskets, steals into the nest of the bumble bee and there lays her eggs. So great is the resemblance here, that not only is the mother bee able to enter the nest unchallenged, but the young bees when hatched are by the same means enabled to escape. Our various bumble bees, no doubt, find great advantage in so closely resembling one another. Many other insects, too, find equally great advantage in so closely resembling the bumble bees. Many common flies mimic them, and each colour type of bumble bee has its appropriate mimic. Certain bees, called Apathi, are parasitic in the nests of the bumble bees. They are indeed very much like real bumble bees, from which they may be distinguished by the thinness of their fur and the consequent shining appearance of their bodies. These very large bees have precisely the colouring of the true bumble bees. Some are parasitic in the nests of those bees which they resemble in colour, and it may be that this resemblance assists them in entering the nests. Hence, it would seem that the mimicry is not so much an aid to the imposition upon the bumble bees, as a means of protecting the Apathi from the general