

labour, he never turned. In the following year there appeared in the *Annales des sciences naturelles* his memoir on *Cerceris*, which signalises the beginning of his entomological career. While at Avignon he met John Stuart Mill, whose love for botany furnished the basis of their remarkable friendship; incidentally he took his doctor's degree in Natural Sciences at Paris, and his discovery by Victor Drury, the Minister of Public Instruction, was responsible for his distinction as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Little did these honours avail him, for during the twenty years during which he stayed at the University of Avignon his salary never changed from £64 per annum. Disappointed, but clinging more tenaciously than ever to his life's pursuit, he settled down near Orange, in the lower Rhone, and subsequently, "after forty years of desperate struggles," he found his Eden at Sérignan, a little village in Provence.

Here for the rest of his life he dwelt; his laboratory was a small tract of wild land "L'Harmas," a "living laboratory," where he studied "non l'insecte mort, macéré dans le trois-six, mais l'insecte vivant; un laboratoire ayant pour objet l'instinct, les moeurs, la manière de vivre, les travaux, les luttes, la propagation de ce petit monde, avec lequel l'agriculture et la philosophie doivent très sérieusement compter."

The central feature of Fabre's work was that he studied the living insect and its behaviour, and in this fact lies the chief value of his contribution to entomological knowledge. Never since Réaumur has so wide a range of insects been studied so intensively as we find in the *Souvenirs entomologiques*; but while Réaumur described with the greatest precision the objects of his patient study, he did not enter into the lives of his insects and their instinctive behaviour to the extent that Fabre has accustomed us. And how different their respective lives: Fabre carrying on a perpetual struggle to raise a family in the face of poverty and Réaumur in ease and comfort. It is safe to say that no entomologist in the past has accomplished a work of so unique a character as that of Fabre, and it is unlikely that the future will hold another man who will equal his achievement. In 1878 he was able to assemble the results of about twenty-five years' labour in the form of the