NATURAL MIMICRY. 1

Insects whose Features Strkingly Resem-ble Those of Other Insects.

Some insects have a deceptive resemblance to members of the vegetable world, either for the purpose of protecting themselves or for that of decoying their prey. But a more wonderful simulation is that of the features of other insects. There is in Borneo a sandwasp which is addicted to the habit of devouring crickets, but there is also a species of cricket which exactly reproduces the appearance of its enemy, so that it can even associate with it undiscovered. A species of mantis imitates the white ant, and mixing with the family, like one of its own members, quietly devours a fat termite, from time to time. Flies often dwell as unbidden guests in the nests and hives of wild honey-bees. They are belted and ibearded in the self-same pattern as their unconscious hosts, but their larvæ pay for the hospitality they steal by devouring the young grubs of the hive.

Beetles often imitate hornets, since the latter are insects to which birds in search of animal food prefer to give a very wide berth. Even the mimicry of stinging insects is sometimes performed by innocent little creatures quite destitute of any such means of defence. A common insect, known in England as the devil's coach-horse, throws up its tail in the aggressive fashion of a scorpion, when irritated, but it has no hint of a sting. In its warlike attitude it is exceedingly alarm-Ing, not only to boys and girls, but to chickens and birds. The bumble-bee flies, which are inoffensive little creatures, imitating the wild bee, flit about and buzz angrily in the sunlight, quite after the fashion of the insect they copy, and gain an undeserved reputation of fierceness. Certain beetles have become modified to resemble wasps, even to the extent of losing their solid waists for others of ultra-fashionable slenderness, and others, which mimic bees, have acquired useless little tufts of hair on their shanks, to represent the pollengathering apparatus of the thue bees. A curious case of imitation is that

of two species of Malayan orioles, which are almost exact counterparts of two varieties of honey-suckers. The fatter are such fierce birds as to be avoided by all their feathered neighbors and thus the orioles find their own deceptive plumage a great protection. -Youth's Companion.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE.

The Difference Between Tidy, Intelligent Girls and Slovenly Nuisances.

The question of domestic servitude is becoming a very serious one, and the housekeepers are denouncing the women servants, right and left. Let us suggest to them in good nature that the word "servant" is rather a harsh term to apply to any one in a republic. We do not believe that any one is anybody's servant in this country. Certainly the girl who does work in your home, often well born, is no more "a servant" than is the clerk in your store or office. Of course there are many coarse and illiterate girls working in kitchens as "second helps," or even as seamstresses; but there are also many estimable, refined girls, the pride of intelligent parents and the best of people, who are doing the same kind of work. And such girls are often called "servants" by snobs of both sexes, who are without a tithe of their real gentility or actual refinement. It is the shoddy habit of calling all girls who work out "servants" that is largely to blame for making such work so unpopular that the best of girls do not wish to do it. They know all too well that thoughtless people class all such working-people alike-ranking the refined, educated, well-bred girl with the coarse, illiterate, ill-mannered, very boor of a girl, and making no distinction between them. Thoughtful people and fairminded people should think of these things. This brings us to what we consider the great fault of the people employing such services. No difference is made between good girls, good cooks, tidy housekeepers, intelligent managers and their opposite-"greenies," who know nothing about cooking, slatterns, slovens and nuisances. The girl who does her work well, neatly and economically gets no more pay than the blockhead who is a terror and a nuisance from the time she comes into the house till she goes out of it. Merit, competency, tidiness, decency, good manners, good address, intelligent interest in all work, gets no better pay than incompetency, slovenliness, ill appearance, wastefulness, heedlessness and carclessness. What object is it to a girl to be competent or to do well; the girl who is just the other way gets just as much as she does. It is so many dollars alike to the good and the bad, the excellent and the trashy, the dosicable girls and the nuisances.-Boston Budget.

THE AMERICAN MASTIFF.

An English View on the Characteristic Points of This Noble Dog.

The American mastiff, as it exists today, is an artificial breed, whose characteristics are maintained only by the most careful breeding. There is therefore opportunity for the greatest diversity of appearance, all depending as it does on the selection and crossing of various strains of blood. This diversity shows itself frequently in the matter of size. The minimum height allowed by the English Mastiff Club is twenty-seven inches. The maximum height of the breed is said to be thirtyfour inches, but a height greater than thirty-one or thirty-two inches is seldom attained. The height should be produced by depth of body, and not by length of leg. Massiveness of frame should be the first consideration, stature the second. Yet for many years the one idea of the American breeder was to obtain height. To get this he seemed willing to sacrifice every characteristic of the breed, introducing crosses of mongrel blood that have proved most unfortunate in their effeets, all the time ignoring the fact that great height, though desirable, is not an essential characteristic of the mastiff. This seems one of the most difficult things for the trio to learn. It is not desired that these statements should be taken as a declaration in favor of small size in the mastiff. The aim of the breeder should be toward the largest dog that can be produced without a sacrifice of that most valuable attribute which the breeder calls type of character. A mastiff twentyseven inches high should weigh one hundred and twenty pounds, and one

one hundred and eighty pounds. The head is the great point. The choice lies between a dog with a head like Hero III., or a dog with a head like Pharaoh. Both types have in this country their admirers and advocates. We believe that there has never been any authoritative declaration on the question by any of the American kennel clubs, but we quote an extract from the points of the mastiff as declared by the English Mastiff Club:

thirty-two inches high should weigh

"Head-very massive and short, with great breadth and depth of skull and squareness of muzzle. Expressionlowering. Forehead-broad, flat and wrinkled. Muzzle-short, truncated, deep and broad, not tapering toward the nose. Jaws-very wide.'

It is claimed by some that a dog of great size and perfect formation, with such a head as that above described, is contrary to the laws of nature, and can not be produced. This assertion is based on certain scientific analogies, and on the fact that so many of the broad, short-headed mastiffs are either small in size or weak in legs. The latter defect, being peculiarly prevalent in heavy mastiffs, leads to the impression that the mastiff is naturally a slow, unwieldy animal; but this is not true. Strength and agility should be united in him, and from the present stand-point there seems to be no good | ing powers in Europe. The people of reason why a mastiff with a typical France are most friendly toward Rusend and of large size should not be produced as strong and agile as a certain English specimen which was known to be able to scize in his jaws the carcass of a full-grown sheep and leap with it over an average stone wall. If a dog of short head and massive size can not be produced, it would seem that we must be contented with a dog of smaller size than usually thought desirable, or else abandon the mastiff and construct a new dog in his place. For, many years ago, before the days of the EnglishMastiff Club, Cavier, most careful of naturalists, wrote that the characteristics of the mastiff were "shortness of upper jaw, projection of lower jaw beyoud the upper, causing the teeth to be undershot, height of forehead, depth and breadth of muzzle and massiveness of head." Of the three colors which characterize the mastiff, the red, the brindle and the fawn, the last seems to be regarded a great conflict .- Youth's Companion. in America, as well as in England, with by far the most favor. When that grand brindle llford Cromwell was first exhibited in this country, it was thought that he would turn the fashion toward his color; but such was not the case, and if one may judge by the show bench he has not been used much as a sire. Yet, apart from his color, this dog is one of the best, and in the minds of some judges the best mastiff in this country. However, the brindle has its admirers. It has been a fashionable color in the bulldog, and is highly prized in those gigantic Germans, the Ulmer dogs, and there seems to be no real objection to it in the mastiff. Several of the most famous specimens of the breed have been of this color. The red is the least desirable color, and it is quite rare. We call to mind only one specimen in recent shows, and that a very indifferent animal. One attraction in the fawn-color is the sharp and effective contrast produced with the dense black mark and ears. The black mark renders essential the dark mastiff eye-the eye, where it is light in color, giving the dog's face an unpleasant, almost sinister, expression .- Charles C. Marshall, in Harper's Magazine.

THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE. The Vast Extent of the Czar's Domi in Europe and Asia.

The Empire of the Czar is so vast in its extent that it bewilders the mind to attempt to form a picture of it. Sweeping from the White Sea, the Polar Ocean, at the north of Europe, eastward to the Sea of Japan and the waters of America, where she has ceded to the United States a domain in the New World larger than France; embracing the vast realm of Siberia: bordering upon China on the south, and touching Afghanistan at the gate of India; flanking Persia, and hovering like a dark cloud over the whole of the Turkish Empire, while on the extreme west she faces Germany, Austria and the new kingdom of Rouman-Ia, Russia presents, in one compact mass, a territory such as no earthly monarch has ever before ruled over.

To the people of the narrowed kingdoms of Europe, who watch jealously every movement of Russia, the Empire is grand, mysterious and fearful. They know its more than eighty million people include many strange races, all of whom seem willing to serve their Emperor. He has at his command a standing army of more than six hundred thousand men, and could call under arms two million soldiers. The vastness and mystery of the Empire make it even more formidable than do the figures which represent its armed men.

The distant camps of the primitive Arvans, who still worship the sacred fire; the Iranians and their ancient enemies, the barbarous Turanians, at peace at last under the flag of a foreign master: Tartars of every sort, faithful in their allegiance to their white master; Georgians, Circassians and Armenians; rude Samovedes, people like Esquimaux in the extreme north: troops upon troops of Cossacks, the organized "cowboys" of Russia; and then the great mass of European Russians, with the Lapps and Finns, and myriads of Jews; all these diverse peoples belonging, with all their goods and their very lives, to one man, and one only, the Great White Czar-all these make up a vague but formidable whole.

It is no wonder that the statesmen of Europe have Russia seldom out of mind, and that they sometimes attribute to her the strangest and darkes! purposes, some of them the most unlikely for her to entertain. The Nation whose people are most jealous of the power of Russia is the English, for it looks upon the Czar as the greatest if not the only danger to its possessions in India. But Russia has another rival in Austria-Hungary, for the interests of the two Nations in the countries which have been from time to time sliced off the Turkish Empire are constantly clashing. Toward Germany Russia is friendly, and the German Government seeks to maintain the best of relations with the Czar; but there is jealousy between the two countriesthe two greatest and most commandsia, because they see the rivalry will Germany, and they have a proverie "My next-door neighbor is my enemy, but my next-door neighbor but one is my natural friend, because he is the enemy of my enemy." The power of peace or war lies in the hands of Alexander III., Emperor of Russia, but he is not likely to exercise it lightly. Although he is an absolute monarch, he could not govern long against the wish of his people. His power is not limited by a parliament. but he feels none the less the influence of the thought of the people, and no absoute sovereign was probably ever more in sympathy with the inclinations of his people than Alexander III. They desire peace, and it is probable that he also desires it. But he is a warlike monarch, and the Russian people have become used to war, so that it is almost a second nature to them. A small event may precipitate

THE COST OF HONEY.

An Apiculturist's Plaint About the Profits

of Commission Men and Retailers. How can we receive a fair compensation for our honey products? This is no doubt the most serious question of the day, to our business. Certainly, we say, if we can not find an outlet for our honey at a fair remuneration, there is no use in continuing to produce it. For years we have labored to reduce bee-keeping to a science, and now that we have attained the longsought goal, must we lay down our smoker and enter some other occupation that will offer a better field for our labor? I say, no! As we have overcome them; let us, fight this one in the future. We can certainly overpull, a strong pull, and a pull alto-

gether." then we shall have some foundation on the garden to-morrow." n which to lay our plans.

Honey, in one sense, is a luxury, but is not enough produced to render it a staple, for tons of it lie in the markets to another. It is not under-production er. It has been urged by many that

the trouble lies with the middleman. To a certain extent this is true, but it ies more with the middle-men than with the middle-man-for, strange as it may seem, there are two, three, and in many cases four men between the producer and the consumer. Take two or three men away, and the result would be encouraging, for they must all live, and, what is more, they do ive, and at our expense. There is no alternative-the middlemen must go. I speak more particularly of the commission men than I do of the jobber, for at present it seems that the jobber is a necessary pest, but the commission men are one of the evils that we must get out of the way.

Now for the greatest evil of them all, to my mind (and I have made the matter a thorough study)-the retailer. He it is that by small degrees is fast robbing us of our well-earned bread and butter, and is gradually undermining our industry. Still, in justice to him, I might say, I know it is very natural for people to want large profits, but with honey the retailer stands in his own light, as well as blowing ours almost out. Let us say, for example, that the retailer goes to the jobber and buys a first grade white comb honey for twelve or thirteen cents per pound. He takes it to his store and immediately puts a placard on it which bears the ollowing: "New clover boney-only twenty-five cents per pound." Ah! "There's the rub." There, friends, is the sign that makes honey a luxury and robs the producer of his hard-earned living. Here is the retailer making a clear one hundred per cent. on every pound of our honey he' handles. Now poor people who love honey can not afford to pay twenty-

BOWSER AS A GARDENER. Mrs. Bowser Tells Why His Plantation Yas a Howling Failure.

"Well, I'm going to have a garden this spring," announced Mr. Bowset as he entered the house the other day "You-vou can't mean it?"

"Mrs. Bowser, when I say I'm going to have a garden I don't want to be understood as meaning that I'm going to have a brickyard."

"But you remember last year?" "Certainly, I remember last year What of it? I set out to make a gar den, and you and the dog and the neighbors' hens, and a hailstorm and the bugs, beat me out of it."

"Well, of course, you will do as you fought all difficulties in the past, and think best, but I'm sorry to see the yard all torn up for nothing."

"That's just like you! No matter come it, if we go at it "with a long what enterprise Lhave on hand you al- twenty year's. - Chicago Times. ways try to discourage me. You are a nice help-meet, you are! I might as

and with whom the trouble lies, and wait for the poor house. I shall begin A year ago he came rushing into the

house one spring day with some seeds why is it? Certainly not because there which some one had given him, and announced that he was going to have a garden. Most of our back yard is in of our large cities from one year's end the shade, and no one of sense would expect any thing to grow there,, but which renders it a luxury, but the ex- Mr. Bowser had it spaded up and made orbitant price asked for it by the retail- into beds, and his enthusiasm was wonderful.

"Don't want a garden, eh!" he chuckled, as he brought me to the back door to survey the beds. "Doesn't this remind you of old times on the farm?'

"Y-e-s, but I'm afraid the soil will be too cold."

"Oh, you are! Perhaps you have been reading up on soils, and are pre paring a series of articles for some agricultural paper! You can go and attend to your rick-rack.'

"But you can warm the soil by running steam pipes under it, and I don't think the cost would be over fifteen hundred dollars!"

If I hadn't shut the door I think Mr Bowser would have hurled the spade at me in his sudden anger, but after a few minutes spent in reflection he began measuring back and forth and sticking stakes, and he afterwards acknowledged to me in a burst of confidence that he intended to try hot bricks at five feet apart. He made a list of the stuff he put into the ground. There were pumpkin, squash, cucumber, watermelon, cantelope and turnip seeds, and he put in some seed onions made a bed for lettuce, and his work was done for the time. He had broken three pairs of suspenders beyond repair, spoiled two pairs of pantaloons, ipped three shirts down the back and ost a twenty-dollar gold piece in the dirt, but he was happy and enthusiastic

"Just think, Mrs. Bowser?" he exclaimed as he waved his hand over his garden, "of walking out and culling your own vegetables, grown on your own land, and covered with the dews fresh from Heaven!"

"And covered with our own worms and bugs, I suppose

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

-One of the industries of the boys and girls at Lowville, N. Y., is the gathering of spruce gum. A great many make over five dollars a day.

-The hop crop last year was about 92,000 tons, while the estimated consumption is \$1,000 tons, leaving a surplus of 10,000 tons. Yet, as the hop crop is sometimes very uncertain, prices may go up again before the close of 1887 .- Cleveland Leader.

-In a recent lecture before the Royal Society of Edinburgh John Murray, of the Challenger expedition, said he believed that, taking its size into consideration, there was no country in the world with a better record of scientific work or a greater mass of scientific literature than Scotland during the past

-There is not so much need of sandpaper in the manufacture of furniture Let us see in the first place, where well fold my hands and sit down and and all cabinet work nowadays, as the machinery used turns out very perfect work. It is estimated by one of the

largest manufacturers of sand-paper in the country that not more than seventy per cent. of the amount of last year's business will be done this year. - Boston Budget.

-A vexing and unsettled question in physiology is, "Why are not the walls of stomach and intestines themselves digested by their own fluids?" Because these tissues are living, was the answer of John Hunter in 1772, but Dr. J. W. Warren has just disproved this explanation by digesting the legs of living frogs in artificial gastrie juice. - Springfield Times.

-Mr. Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester, Mass., has just given to the Technical Institute of that city \$100,000, to he used in the erection and equipment of a building for laboratories for mechanical, physical and chemical science as a memorial to his father, the late Stephen Salisbury, who for a great many years was president and chief patron of the institute. - Chicago Trib-\$472.0.

-The invention of a new optical glass is said to be creating a sensation in the German scientific world. The glass, owing to its great refractory power, promises to be of marked influence in practical optics, inasmuch as it will admit of the production of lenses of short focal width, such as it has hitherto been impossible to obtain. For microscopic photography it will be of the greatest importance.-Public Opinion.

-At a meeting of the Physiological Society of Berlin it was given as a fact that when the bee has filled his cell and has completed the lid a drop of formic acid, obtained from the poison bag connected with the sting, is added to the honey by perforating the lid with the sting. This formic acid preserves honey and every other sugar solution from fermentation. Most of the insects that have a stinging apparatus similar to that of the bee are collectors and storers of honey, so the sting has a double function-it is a weapon and a pickle .- Foote's Health Monthly.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Writing of the Deranged.

The manuscripts of neuropaths-a word wide enough to include the slight and the severe disturbances of mental sanity-present certain typical characteristics. They abound in italicised words; in exclamation points and punctustions after almost every word; in frequent use of capitals; in various sizes of writing, particularly much very large writing; and the like. It is not often that such people have the opporof typography. M. Richet prints a few specimen pages of such an author, and in seventeen lines, besides the usual capitals, exclamation points, and so on, in great abundance. All this is significant of an excited, prancing state of mind, closely allied to delirium and mania - Science.

-"Now, Job," said Mrs. Shuttle, "those trousers are altogether too big tunity of going to print and converting for the boy. They'll have to be the compositor to their peculiar system changed." "No, they won't. They're all right. I bought 'em where they advertise 'boys' clothing to play in. counts twelve different kinds of letters They are just big enough for him to play in without going out of doors. They're so roomy."-Hartford Post,

> -Frowning minister-"Who made the world in six days?" Frightened Boy-"Please, sir; I didn't."

----Adulterated Spices.

The chemists of the Department of Agriculture, under direction of Commissioner Colman, have been for some time engaged in investigating the extent and manner of adulterating the groceries in common use, commencing wite spices and condiments. Of twenty samples of ground cloves examined only two were pure; the others had suffered the extraction of their essential oils and had been polluted by the kind in New York could command up to see what alled them. addition of clove stems, allspice and husks of various kinds. Of eight samples of cayenne pepper only one was pure. Of ten samples of mustard none were pure, unchanged mustard; the others contained quantities of wheat flour, which made it necessary to add tumerie acid to restore the mustard color. A specimen of pepper sent their honey and put labels on every the neighborhood. There were wheat, army contract was found to be spuri- telling the public to pay no more than ous. Cayenne pepper, black pepper the box price. Then we should have "body" was supplied by ground beans evil, and the subject is a broad one. I samples of white pepper out of five and consider this question of protee- I had been over to mother's I returned were pure, two samples of mace out of tion .- W. B. Treadwell, in Country five were pure, and of three samples of Gentleman. nutmeg examined all were pure .--Boston Budget.

-Bigsby-"Oh, dear! I don't believe I get three hours' sleep out of twenty-four now." Dumpsey-"Yes, In passing from one car to another a Bigsby-"That may be, but it don't compare with a baby."-Burlington cloth was badly rent. The pocket of

-Seven-tenths of the dry portion of book, containing money, tickets, keys corn is pure starch, and starch forms and checks, sailed off into the black about four-fifths of all human food. night. - Chicago Times.

five cents per pound for it, and the wealthy class can not consume enough to empty our markets. What then, is the result? There seems to be only one answer-it is a luxury, and the poor can not afford to buy it.

Now suppose this same dealer should, astead of putting twenty-five cents on the glowing placard, put fifteen cents the result? Why, he would sell fifty rind! pounds where he only sold one at the former price, and this is where I claim he stands in his own light. For at that price the poor people would consume it by the carload, for it would then be just half the price of butter, and is certainly better for children than butter.

How, then can we overcome this obstacle? There are several ways, but we must have the united efforts of the bec-keepers. There could be a stock company formed for the sole purpose of handling honey. Let the stock be held by the bee-keepers, and the company run in their interests entirely. There is a honey company abroad, and I leaun that it has met with unqualified success. It would be well in this case to follow in the steps of our English brethren and protect our interests. 1 would say, have the stock shares very low, so that the smallest producer could be a stockholder, and thus a company of this every pound of honey that was sent to that city. What is more, they could establish agencies in other cities, and it would be but a matter of time before the bee-keepers would be protected in every sense.

Again, they might unite on a standard price for which they would sell

-A Buffalo lady had a curious experience in traveling in New York lately. It was a stormy night, and a sudden blast wrapped her skirts around the brake, and in freeing herself the the dress was torn off, and her pocket"There you are! You'd die if you

ouldn't say something mean! I used to wonder why some families didn't get. along better, but now 1 see through the mystery."

"Has any thing sprouted yet?" "None of your business! Don't you dare to look over my garden! If I and thus be satisfied with two cents, raise fifty thousand big, luselous melprofit on each pound; what would be ons, you shan't even have a piece of

> The next week he brought home two dozen tomato plants and set them out. While he was down town I went out to look at them, and when he returned I asked him if he was certain they were tomato plants.

"Am I certain that I am alive at this moment!" he roared. "Perhaps 1 have traveled this country from Maine to Texas to be taken in by a farmer!'

"Well, I hope they'll turn out to be tomato plants, but they look to me like-

"Bosh' Most any thing looks queer to a cross-eved woman!"

I am satisfied that Mr. Bowset used seeds enough on that garden to plant it five deep. Whatever he could hear of he got, and whatever he brought home went into the ground before he could rest. His tomato plants didn't do well. They got liver complaint and turned yellow, and they got malaria and shivered all day long and one afternoon he brought a friend

"Bowser, that's a potato-stalk or I'm a fool!"

"Not"

"Well it is, and you might as well pull up and throw the others away!"

I heard it all, but never let on. In June some of the things began to sprout, and our garden was the talk of from Baltimore to a man who had an box, with the price plainly printed, oats, lettuce, barley, clover, onions, broom-corn, water-melons, pig-weeds and beets all coming up together, and husks and mustard hulls were used to the public's watchful eye to help us. men hung over the fence and laughed give flavor and pungency, while There are many ways to remedy this till they cried. Mr. Bowser treated the subject with such a lofty air that 1 and rice, and color by charcoal. Two trust that our bee-keepers will wake up asked no questions, but one day when to find the garden gone and the sods restored.

> "Wasn't it a success, darling?" 1 asked that evening.

"Wasn't what a success?"

"The garden, of course."

"Could a garden be a success with cople throwing hot water and hair-oil bottles and old shoes at every sprout that showed its head above ground? Mrs. Bowser, you were maliciously determined that I should not have a garden, and you've triumphed for the hour, but beware! It's a long road that has no turn!"-Detroit Free Press.

California raisin growers expect to make an average of \$400 an acre this season.

-The old saying, "Worth, not wealth," means that you can't buy anything of Worth unless you have wealth. -"Mr. and Mrs. Bullion called this afternoon, sor." "Too bad; and we were out. Did they leave any message?" "Yes, sor: he said, Good, good; tell him I'm so sorry he were not at home.

-He (at dinner)-"May I assist you to the cheese, Miss Vassar?" Miss Vassar (just geaduated) -- "Thanks, no! I am very comfortable where I am. But you may assist the cheese to me, if you will!"-Puet.

-A Division of Labor.-He-"Where are you going, my pretty maid?" She -"I'm going a-milking, sir" (she said), He-"Can I not help you, my pretty maid?" She-"You can work the pump-handle, sir" (she said). - Puck.

-The tallest man in the world is supposed to be an Austrian named Winkelmeler, twenty-two years of age. His height is eight feet and three inches, being a foot more than that of Chang, the Chinese giant. - Chicago Advance.



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