

are so far from eating that they are utterly unable to stir. Thus, what authors have dignified with the name of a magazine, appears to be no more than a cavity, which serves for a common retreat when the weather forces them to return to their lethargic state.

What has been said with exaggeration of the European ant, is however true, if asserted of those of the tropical climates. *They* build an ant-hill with great contrivance and regularity; lay up provisions, and, as they probably live the whole year, submit themselves to regulations entirely unknown among the ants of Europe.

Those of Africa are of three kinds, the *red*, the *green*, and the *black*; the latter are above an inch long, and in every respect a most formidable insect. Their sting produces extreme pain, and their depredations are sometimes highly destructive. They build an ant-hill of a very great size, from six to twelve feet high; it is made of viscous clay, and tapers into a pyramidal form\*. This habitation is con-

\* These pyramids are ten, fifteen and sixteen feet high in Western Africa, of a red colour, and absolutely like well baked earth. Their bases are all from a hundred to a hundred and twenty square feet; it would be a curious and philosophical undertaking, to compare these pyramids with the celebrated ones of Egypt.