

the procuring of food, or to the rearing of their young ; in other words, they have for their end the preservation of the individual and of the species. It is by instinct that the leopard conceals himself and awaits the approach of his prey. It is equally by instinct that the spider spreads his web to entangle the flies which approach it.

138. Some animals go beyond these immediate precautions ; their instinct leads them to make provision for the future. Thus the squirrel lays in his store of nuts and acorns during autumn, and deposits them in cavities of trees, which he readily finds again in winter. The hamster digs, by the side of his burrow, compartments for magazines, which he arranges with much art. Finally, the bee, more than any other animal, labors in view of the future ; and she has become the emblem of order and domestic economy.

139. Instinct exhibits itself, in a no less striking manner, in the anxiety which animals manifest for the welfare of their anticipated progeny. All birds build nests for the shelter and nurture of their young, and in some cases these nests are made exceedingly comfortable. Others show very great ingenuity in concealing their nests from the eyes of their enemies, or in placing them beyond their reach. There is a small bird in the East Indies, the tailor bird (*Sylvia sutoria*,) which works wool or cotton into threads with its feet and beak, and uses it to sew together the leaves of trees for its nest.

140. The nest of the fiery hang-bird, (*Icterus Baltimore*,) dangling from the extremity of some slender, inaccessible twig, is familiar to all. The beautiful nest of the humming-bird, seated on a mossy bough, and itself coated with lichen and lined with the softest down from the cotton-grass or the mullein leaf, is calculated equally for comfort and for escaping observation. An East Indian bird, (*Ploceus Philippinus*,) not only exhibits wonderful devices in the construction,