

eggs, the youngest members of the community; those more distant, with larger eggs,\* mixed with larves; and the most remote, with pupes near disclosure. In fact, in these last cells only were found winged insects. The female is in a large or royal cell, near the centre of the nest: she is about half an inch long, of the thickness of a crow-quill, white, and the abdomen has five or six brown ligatures round it, as in the female of the white ants; the head is very small, and the legs mere rudiments: she is kept a close prisoner, and incapable of motion in her cell, a circumstance in which these appear to approach the white ants, and which indicates that they should form a distinct genus.

There was no store of provisions in the nests; they were indebted, therefore, for their support to daily labour. We may gain some idea of their perseverance, when we consider that the material of which the nest is formed—cow-dung—must have been sought for on the earth, and probably carried from a considerable distance up the trees.

Colonel Sykes related to me another anecdote with regard to an Indian species of ant, which he calls the *large black ant*, instancing, in a wonderful manner, their perseverance in attaining a favourite object, which was witnessed by himself, his lady, and his whole household. When resident at Poona, the dessert, consisting of fruits, cakes, and various preserves, always remained upon a small side-table, in a verandah of the dining-room. To guard against inroads the legs of the table were immersed in four basins filled with water; it was removed an inch from the wall, and, to keep off dust through open windows, was covered with a table-cloth. At first the ants did not attempt to cross the water, but as the strait was very narrow, from an inch to an inch and a half, and the sweets very tempting, they appear, at length, to have braved all risks, to have com-

\* It should seem from this that the eggs grow.