

crowds from every part of the horizon, though one before was not to be seen. The most destructive beetles in these countries are those that attack *leather* or skins. Two species of the same genus* commit dreadful ravages in the magazines of this article: and in spite of the constant pains that are bestowed to get rid of these insects and their grubs, great losses are suffered.

Another unsightly substance is removed by numberless beetles, whose office is that of scavengers; the celebrated *Scarabæus* of the Egyptians,† the symbol, as it is supposed, of the sun, is of this description; the pill-beetle, also, ‡ equal in fame to the burying one, for trundling its pills, each containing an egg, with the aid of his co-species: many of a smaller type are likewise devoted to the same office.§

It is worthy of remark that all these feed only on the excrement of *herbivorous* animals; none having been recorded, I believe, that feed on that of *carnivorous* ones, except a single species || that inhabits *human* excrement solely, but forms no burrow under it.

Others of the order make a transition to the *vegetable* kingdom, by attacking various kinds of fungi, as agarics, Boleti, puff-balls, and the like, which in fact seem to exhibit, in their substance, some analogy to *flesh*. Fabricius has given the name of *Agaric-eater* ¶ to a genus that is chiefly found in the *Boletus*; another beetle, however, devours agarics, and is found, I believe, in no other fungus; ** and the puff-ball affords a favourite nutriment to others. ††

Some beetles, or tribes of beetles, are both predaceous,

* *Dermestes cadaverinus et vulpinus.* † *Scarabæus sacer.*

‡ *Ateuchus pilularius.* Introd. to Ent. i. 351.

§ *Sphæridium, &c.*

|| *Hybosorus geminatus.*

¶ *Mycetophagus.* Fabr. *Boletaria.* Marsh.

** *Oxyporus maxillosus.*

†† *Lycoperdina.*