

security, and comfort of its nest, but displays a still further advance towards intelligence. The nest is built at the tips of long pendulous twigs, usually hanging over the water. It is composed of grass, in such a manner as to form a complete thatch. The entrance is through a long tube, running downwards from the edge of the nest; and its lower end is so loosely woven, that any serpent or squirrel, attempting to enter the aperture, would detach the fibres, and fall to the ground. The male, however, who has no occasion for such protection, builds his thatched dome, similar to that of the female, and by its side; but makes simply a perch across the base of the dome, without the nest-pouch or tube.

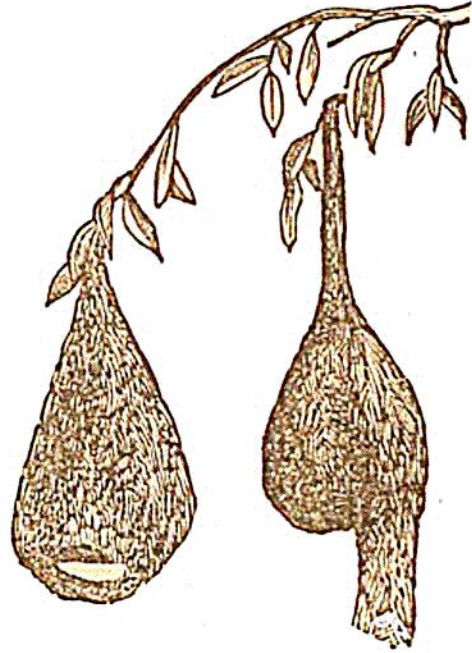


Fig. 24.

141. But it is among insects that this instinctive solicitude for the welfare of the progeny is every where exhibited in the most striking manner. Bees and wasps not only prepare cells for each of their eggs, but take care, before closing the cells, to deposit in each of them something appropriate for the nourishment of the future young.

142. It is by the dictate of instinct, also, that vast numbers of animals of the same species associate, at certain periods of the year, for migration from one region to another; as the swallows and passenger pigeons, which are sometimes met with in countless flocks.

143. Other animals live naturally in large societies, and labor in common. This is the case with the ants and bees. Among the latter, even the kind of labor for each member of the community is determined beforehand, by instinct.