tion, for those who died of disease were not treated after this fashion. One of the rude coffins that contained a cut-up body is given among the illustrations. All the objects represented, with the exception of three from El Kab, are from Deshasheh, and they possess a great interest from their extreme antiquity. In one of the tombs a very fine statue was found. It represents a prince and royal priest, named Nenkheftka; a portrait or careful drawing of his head is given, to show what a man was like on the banks of the Nile 5,500 years ago. This statue is good evidence that sculpture was far from being a primitive art at that early date. There is also a group of the same man and his wife, Nefersems; also the skull of their son, named Nenkheftka. The wooden chisel and mallet, as they would be useless in cutting stone, are supposed to have been employed for excavating the earth in making graves. It may be mentioned that small baskets, like the one shown in the illustration, are still used in India, where women and children carry earth at railway making or other works.—The Illustrated London News.

THE THEATER OF INSECTS.

By JOHN H. LOVELL, in Popular Science News.

THE first zoological book printed in England was "The Theater of Insects," by Moufet in 1634. The title of the book would suggest that the author, after the manner of old Izaak Walton, was wont to moralize a bit over his studies of natural history. We fancy that he saw, as upon the stage, both tragedy and comedy in the lives and ways of the little known insect world. "The Theater of Insects" differs from all other theaters in that its busy season comes during the summer months. Just as, in the long ago, historical geology tells us that flowers and insects appeared in the world at the same period of time, so now in the early spring the blooming of the first flowers announces the awakening of insect life. If during the last week of the month of May you visit a cold, damp woodland of Northern New England, your attention will at once be arrested by the handsome and conspicuous blossoms of the hobble bush or wayfaring tree. The large flower buds are formed the previous season, pass the winter wholly naked and open in spring with the appearance of the leaves. This shrub may be easily recognized by its straggling habit of growth, its drooping branches, and the broad flat heads, or corymbs, of flowers of two different sizes. The center florets are small, greenish in color, and in autumn produce bright red berries; while the marginal ones, a single row of which surrounds the corymb, are large, white, and sterile. Their size has been increased at the expense of their power of producing seed, and as their use is to attract the attention of insects, they usually open some days in advance of the inner and smaller florets. But for them, the blossom would easily pass unnoticed amid the budding foliage, as may be easily proved by cutting them off. Since their conspicuousness is useless to themselves, but of benefit to the community, they may be said to unconsciously play the part of benefactors.

A sort of barter or exchange is carried on between the flowers of the hobble bush and the insects, by which each is of service to the other. A small quantity of honey, in a thin layer, is secreted by the inner florets, and as insects pass quickly from floret to floret in search of this, their bodies become covered with pollen, and they repay the plant for the food they obtain by effecting cross fertilization. Let us carefully watch the flower on a sunny day and observe how successful it is in attracting insect visitors. I have taken upon it and have now in my collection three species of bees, one butterfly, a small brown species of miller, three hemiptera, five flies, and seven beetles, or twenty species in all, a large number for the month of May. Butterflies are rarely met with, for as the honey is fully exposed and not concealed in a deep pit, as in the pinks, the flowers are adapted only to the visits of short lipped insects such as flies and beetles. Upon the open flowers they can readily obtain both honey and pollen, and in consequence are the most frequent visitors.

In gathering honey from the flowers of the hobble bush there would seem to be no possible danger to insects, and yet they not infrequently meet with a tragic end. Here lying upon the flat top of the blossom is a dead fly. Lift it up and you will discover how it was killed. The head is firmly grasped by the mandibles of a white spider, which, rather than release its prey, permits itself to be dragged from its hiding place and deposited in your collecting box. Except for a red lateral stripe on the abdomen, its color closely resembles that of the flowers amid which it lives, and of whose power of attracting insects it has learned to make use for its own benefit. I have never been able to observe this spider in the act of seizing insects, but I believe it catches them while they are sucking honey. A member of this same family of spiders also frequents the pyramidal flower clusters of the hardhack, and I have known of its capturing so large and strong an insect as the hive bee.

In a previous article I referred to the habit of bees of puncturing the spur of the yellow jewel weed (*Impatiens fulva*), to obtain the honey more easily than by entering the saclike flower in the legitimate way. In like manner bees puncture the two lipped tubular flowers of the common skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*). In two instances a narrow slit was observed on the upper side of the curved corolla tube, and in a third case the whole upper portion of the tube was cut away, leaving the lips suspended by a mere thread. The buds while still quite immature are also punctured at the apex, usually on the under side. The piercing of nearly mature buds has been recorded of *Lamium album*, but never before, so far as known to the writer, of the skullcap. The perforation of the flowers of the Labiate by bees is, however, of common occurrence. Both the maxillæ and mandibles appear to be employed, the former for piercing and the latter for biting away the tissue, and both the bumble and hive bees are known to make use of the holes in extracting honey. If, after the manner of certain plants famous in myth and story, the *Impatiens* (fitly, in this respect, named touch-me-not) could speak, what a protest it would utter! For unknown centuries it had been developing the color and form of its flowers, only at last to find its work in danger of being rendered worse

than useless by a change in the habits of its bee visitors. It should, however, be mentioned that the flowers in North America are visited by humming birds, and I have also seen another smaller species of bee enter the flower in search of pollen.

THE IGUANAS IN THE ZOO AT LEIPZIG.

Of the many wonders which the Zoological Gardens of Leipzig offer to the gaze of visitors, a pair of fine iguanas form a principal feature, attracting at once the attention of scientists and laymen alike. We reproduce a cut from *Illustrirte Zeitung*, which their artist drew from life, and which gives a very good idea of the external appearance of the giant lizard—for of the family of the saurians, the iguana is a member.

In technical language, the animal is called *Iguana tuberculata*, the first part of the name being derived from the language of the natives of Hayti, where iguanas are found; the second, of Latin origin, referring

tree to tree, it avails itself of its strong feet, with their long, sharp claws, and by them becomes a truly dreadful foe to the small birds and lizards of which it occasionally makes a repast.

Examination of the stomach of these animals has shown that, as a rule, they live on vegetable food. Still, there were found among the contents of the stomach, besides remains of small birds and lizards (which we mentioned above), eggshells and small animals of various description.

The iguanas are vicious, wily, but show staunch resistance when attacked. In defense they use their pointed, back-curved teeth, and slash with their tails, blows from which are rendered dangerous by the sharp comb.

The male iguana chooses a partner once, and does not quit her after. He will protect her against any other animal, and fiercely assert his privilege in having secured her favor.

The females lay their eggs on sand banks, carefully

THE IGUANA IN THE ZOO AT LEIPZIG.

to the excrescences on the head and neck (tuber, a boil, from *tumeo*).

The head is large and square, the neck is short and strong, the body is long and flattened out sideways, and ends in the long tail, which is covered with sharp scales. All over the body, along the spine, a sharp pointed comb runs from the back of the head to the tip of the tail, giving the beast a dragon-like appearance. This is rendered yet more striking by the baggy skinfolds at the throat, which also are set with thorny scales. The whole body is thoroughly protected against the attacks of such enemies as the iguana is likely to meet.

The head is incased in scales which are partly flat, partly convex, lumpy or ridged. The rest of the body has feebly ridged scales. The ears are large and freely attached to the head. The animal often attains a length of 5 feet, over 3 feet of this total being taken up by the tail. This tail is by no means a useless ballast, but is used both as a means of propulsion and for steering when the iguana takes to water, where it is quite as much at home as in the forest. Here, in climbing, in leaping after food from branch to branch and from

bury them in the sand, and pay no further attention to them. The heat of the sun, in time, calls the young iguanas from the soft-shelled eggs.

To hunt these lizards a gun is useless as a rule, for they can stand a heavy charge of shot, and once warned are soon safe, either in water or dense foliage. A more certain means of laying them low is an Indian arrow, which is often deadly. Dogs also are trained to bring to bay this queer prey. Animals secured are brought to market, where they are sold at a good price, to be consumed on the boards of wealthy people.

In captivity iguanas at first prove vicious, and snap at their keepers. They must be kept fairly warm, and the temperature around them must be constant, else the climate soon tells upon, and their life is ended by an untimely death.

To get them accustomed to the feeding, it is usual to worry them till they open their mouths, then the food is brought under their teeth, and, once bitten, is soon devoured. In time the persuasive power of hunger proves stronger than the stupefaction caused by the unaccustomed surroundings, and no further trouble is given in that respect.