

the globe,—one of the most disagreeable pests of the European settler, or of war-vessels on foreign stations. I have among my books an age-embrowned copy of Ramsay's "Tea Table Miscellany," that had been carried into foreign parts by a musical relation, after it had seen hard service at home, and had become smoke-dried and black ; and yet even it, though but little tempting, as might be thought, was not safe from the cockroaches ; for, finding it left open one day, they ate out in half an hour half its table of contents, consisting of several leaves. Assuredly, if the ancient *Blattæ* were as little nice in their eating as the devourers of the "Tea Table Miscellany," they would not have lacked food amid even the unproductive flora and meagre fauna of the Coal Measures. With these ancient cockroaches a few locusts and beetles have been found associated, together with a small *Tinea*,—a creature allied to the common clothes-moth ; and a *Phasmia*,—a creature related to the spectre insects. But the group is an inconsiderable one ; for insects seem to have occupied no very conspicuous place in the carboniferous fauna. The beetles appear to have been of the wood and seed devouring kinds, and would probably have found their food among the conifers ; the *Phasmidæ* and grasshoppers would have lived on the tender shoots of the less rigid plants their contemporaries ; the *Tinea* probably on ligneous or cottony fibre. Not a single insect has the system yet produced of the now numerous kinds that seek their food among flowers. In the Oolitic ages, however, insects become greatly more numerous,—so numerous that they seem to have formed almost exclusively the food of the earliest mammals, and apparently also of some of the flying reptiles of the time. The magnificent dragon flies, the carnivorous tyrants of their race, were abundant ; and we now know, that while they were, as their name indicates, dragons to the weaker insects, they themselves were devoured by dragons as truly such as were ever yet feigned