

flesh, their bad smell, their being armed with stings, thorns, and other such weapons. Butterflies and caterpillars of several perfectly distinct families have, by Mimetic Adaptation, acquired the same form, colour, and tracings belonging to other families which are avoided owing to their smell or the taste of their flesh, or on account of their terrifying appearance, or their armour. Among insects bees and wasps are especially feared owing to their poisonous sting. Hence there are insects, of not less than five or six wholly distinct orders, which have gradually, by natural selection, become strangely like wasps: the butterflies (*Sesia*), the scarabee (*Odontorera*), further numerous Diptera (flies and gnats), various grasshoppers (*Orthoptera*), hemipters (*Hemiptera*), and others. Their terrifying resemblance to wasps is of the greatest use to all of these insects, inasmuch as it protects them from their numerous enemies and persecutors. There are also numerous innocent snakes which have gradually become extremely like certain poisonous snakes, having "mimicked" them in form, colour, and tracings; thus, for instance, our innocent ringed-snake (*Coronella lævis*) has copied the poisonous viper (*Vipera berus*). As *protective resemblance* is in many other cases also (for instance, in the selection of similar colours) the cause of striking transformations, it may likewise be classed among the series of Mimetic Adaptations.

Another law of adaptation is *the law of divergent adaptation*. By this law we indicate the fact that parts originally formed alike have developed in different ways under the influence of external conditions. This law of adaptation is extremely important for the explanation of the phenomenon of division of labour, or polymorphism. We can see this