

Some quaint and weird stories, particularly in connection with our Bull-ants, will be found in literature published overseas. Sharp (1899) writes that the nests are "said to be sometimes five feet high." This surely must apply to Termites' nests. Bull-ants will climb anywhere; and it is possible that a stranger, seeing huge ants on a high mound, might conclude that they were the owners. Probably the quaintest story regarding our Bull-ants, is that recorded by Smith, in the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London (1861), from details supplied to him by Mrs. Hatton, of Sydney. The "funeral rites" of the soldier-ants are described. This has been dealt with in the *Victorian Naturalist*, by Barker.

I have kept Bull-ants in captivity for some years, and find that, far from showing sympathy with the injured, or the dead, they throw them on the rubbish-heap, where gradually they become covered in the refuse from the nest. In the bush, other ants would certainly carry such bodies to their nests, and it is possible that Mrs. Hatton noticed some species of *Camponotus*, several of which look much like Bull-ants to the casual observer, carry the dead Bull-ants to their nests, which frequently are indicated only by holes on the surface of the ground. When food is being taken to the nest in abundance there are generally a few ants around the entrance; this may have suggested the "funeral."

In an article in *The Entomologist* (1865), B. T. Lowne dealt with a number of ants seen and captured during a two-months' visit to Sydney, in 1862. Some of his notes are good; but in several cases his observations do not tally with those of Australian observers. In dealing with *Myrmecia gulosa*, one of the commonest Bull-ants, he says:—"These ants are the most rapacious and numerous of Australian species; they climb trees in vast numbers, to attack the great *Anoplognathi*, which they pull down and bury alive in the earth; although, in point of bulk, the beetles bear very much the same relation to the ants that an elephant does to a man. I have, however, often seen three ants bring one of the largest to the ground in spite of all its exertions. Their sting is very severe, but the pain occasioned is evanescent." In dealing with *Myrmecia nigrocincta*, he says:—"This insect is remarkable for the leaps it takes in running, often jumping over a foot of ground at a leap; it also jumps from the trunks of trees upon persons walking near it. Its sting is very severe."