cence of the cocoon, but suddenly, so to speak, since larvæ which are similar to one another and produce similar adults, either make an absolutely complete cocoon, without any signs of reduction, or make none at all.

This fact may be cited to show how sudden may be the changes that supervene in the habits of an animal. It supports the conclusions announced in a communication by my brother, M. Armand Janet, to the congress at Leyden. These conclusions, deduced from considerations of rational mechanics applied to the problem of species regarded as a position of equilibrium, tend to demonstrate that the differences between a certain form and its descendants are produced rather by quite sudden leaps than by insensible and continuous variations.

Much has been published of late, both by the government and the newspapers, concerning the advisability and feasibility of establishing the kelep ant in Texas and the other cotton-growing states for the purpose of destroying the boll-weevil. I feel at liberty to comment on this subject because for some years past I have had rather exceptional opportunities in Texas, Florida, Mexico and the Bahamas of studying the habits of a number of species belonging to the same natural subfamily as the kelep. This study has convinced me that the attempt to establish the ant in Texas will prove to be about as successful and profitable as an attempt to acclimatize in the same state some rare Central American orchid, the South African secretary bird or the Australian wombat. But in undertaking to give my reasons for this opinion, I am far from wishing that the experiment were not being tried. An experiment may, of course, be a complete failure from a purely economic standpoint and still be of considerable, albeit negative, scientific value.

At the outset I may say that I have not myself studied the living *Ectatomma tuberculatum,* though I am familiar with the insect in collections.* But Dr. Cook's account† shows