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Notes on the Animal Life of the Hothouses of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

BY

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During the summer of 1903 Mr. James Waterston recognised an exotic ant running on one of the botanical specimens in the Botany class-room, and was in consequence prompted to begin in the following year a series of enquiries—in which he generously asked me to co-operate—into the natural history of the hothouses. Through the kindness of Professor Bayley Balfour we were allowed unrestrained access to the hothouses, and in the foreman of the Glass Department, Mr. Stewart, and his subordinates we have found very willing allies.

The animal life of the hothouses, both in its wealth and in its variety, surpassed all our expectations; and, imported unintentionally as it has been from all quarters of the globe, it affords the most striking evidence possible of the part played by man in the distribution of species. Insects and shells from Central and Southern Europe are living here side by side with species from America and the West Indies. Under inverted flowerpots and in similar dark corners the Australian cockroach hides by day, and among the plants in the Orchid-house a large jumping-spider—identified by Rev. O. Pickard-Cambridge as *Husarius mansouii*, Sav.—lives and thrives, spending part of his time in stalking bluebottles and other insects and springing upon his prey from as great a distance as eighteen inches (a spring of this extent having been carefully measured by Mr. Stewart). In the mould of the propagating-frames a millipede, strange to the eyes of Scottish naturalists, and a large planarian worm have long been thoroughly acclimatised, and a pretty little isopod is established in the same retreats. Among the other

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