

FORMICA SANGUINEÆ.—Latr.

BY FREDERICK CLARKSON, NEW YORK CITY.

In a piece of uncultivated land, bordering a wood in proximity to Oak Hill, Columbia Co., New York, there are two large nests of these ants. They are in size about 4 x 2 feet, and during the eight summers of my residence at this place they have not outwardly increased much in size. The gardener has observed them for thirty-five years, and it is not improbable that they have existed for a half a century or more. I had a longing desire to open them and explore their deep caverns and winding galleries, but the gardener regarded such action as an ill-omen to the place, and an infringement upon the rights of communities that he had long protected and cared for. On one occasion I captured a dozen workers from one of these nests and carried them away about a thousand feet. I then threw them out of the glass jar in which I had captured them upon a carriage way, and, standing the jar down, watched to see what course they might take to the nest. To my astonishment every individual, after much wandering, entered the jar. I repeated the experiment; several re-entered the jar, the others travelled away in different directions and became lost in the grass bordering the road. The ants are social and live in communities, and I take it that they returned to the jar as being the last place in which they were in company.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN L. LECONTE.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we announce the death of Dr. J. L. Leconte, the eminent coleopterist, who died on the 15th of November, in the 59th year of his age. His valuable and voluminous writings have given him a world-wide reputation, while his uniform kindness and self-denying labors, in aiding students in his department, have won him the esteem of all who have had the pleasure either of meeting him personally, or of corresponding with him. The writer well remembers the kind encouragement which our departed friend gave him some twenty years