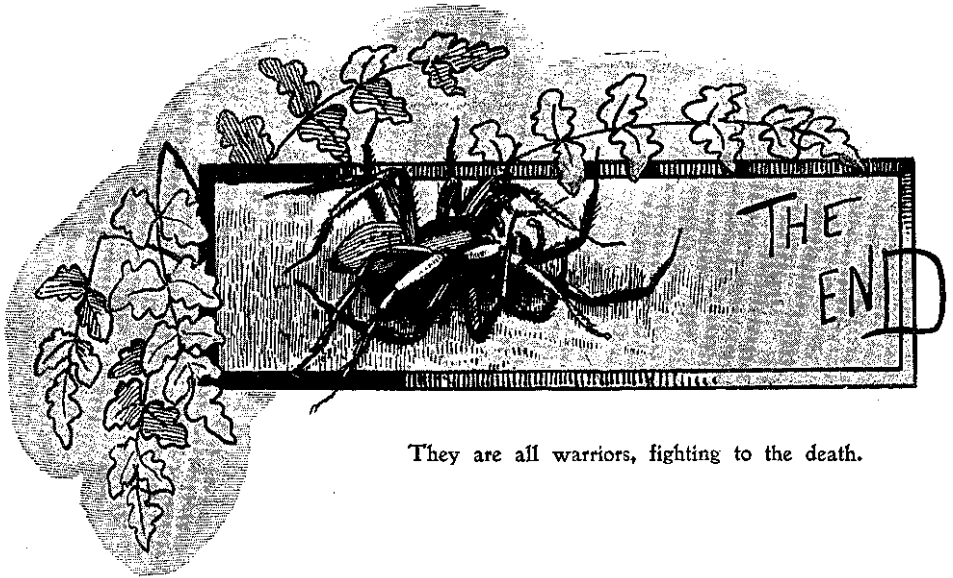


living and laying its eggs in a bell-shaped structure of silk, open beneath and filled with air, which it carries down in small bubbles one at a time, attached to the spinnerets and hind feet; here the female hatches her young quite dry.

It is said to be unlucky to kill spiders, the reason being, no doubt, that they are useful in destroying insects; so it is unlucky to kill ladybirds, for they feed on aphides, which destroys hops; and stupidity in one small thing is often an index to character.

Spiders are great drinkers, and dependent on moisture, though they can endure long fasts, living on the fat accumulated in the abdomen; so in droughts the flies multiply in swarms, for the spiders, who should keep them down, die off in large numbers.

But in ordinary circumstances they keep the insect world under their control, and maintain that equilibrium which Nature has in view. So farewell, and long life to Mistress Spider, warrior, sportsman, man-eater, and to her ridiculous, but valiant little husband.



They are all warriors, fighting to the death.

## From the Greek.



INTO the meadow descending,  
Flower upon flower she plucked,  
Choosing the choicest of blooms  
All merry and gay at heart.

RUSTICUS.