

MIDDLESEX BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Middlesex Bee-keepers' Association will be held in the City Hall, London, Ont., on Saturday, November 7th, commencing at 10 o'clock. A good programme is arranged, and all will be welcome.

F. J. MILLER, President.

E. T. BAINARD, Secretary.

THE HABITS OF THE BEE AND SOME MISAPPREHENSIONS

[By Everett F. Phillips, Ph.D. (Fellow for Research in Zoology, University of Pennsylvania)]

Of all animals, aside from man himself, there are very few that have been the object of more admiration and interest to men of every age than the common honey bee. The domestic animals have, of course, been the objects of much study, but it is much to be doubted whether they surpass the bee in interest. On account of its value to man as a honey-producer, as well as because of its most interesting habits, but few insects are as well known as is the hive bee, *Apis mellifera*.

It may be profitable for us to review together for a short time some of the things that we know about bees, and it has occurred to me that possibly it might be even more profitable to find out what we do not know. There yet remains much to be done along the line of observations on the habits of the bee, and, lest we forget that we do not yet know all that is to be known, let us first examine the difficulties in the way of observation and then hastily review our present knowledge in so far as our time will allow.

First of all, let us give credit to the men who in the past have spent their time in observation, for by their labor we of the present are enabled to read in a short time the results of years of work and profit in the practical work of apiculture by their recorded results. He would

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be an ignorant bee-keeper indeed who would fail to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to the men who have worked on the habits of the bee, for apiculture is founded on their work, and would not exist to-day as a science were it not for such workers. The names of Aristotle, Swammerdam, Reaumur, Bonnet, Schirach, Huber and others well known to you, must ever be venerated by bee-keepers for the light these men threw on the activities in the hive. Huber, with his loss of sight, stands out among these as an example of a man who could do work of the greatest value in spite of an affliction which would make most men of little value to mankind at large. Later we come to the names of Dzierzon, the founder of the theory of Parthenogenesis; Von Berlepsch, Von Siebold and Weismann. We must also include Langstroth, Cowan and possibly Cheshire in the list, for they have done much in apiculture. There are many more men whose work has helped, but we cannot enumerate all of them. I regret to say that relatively few Amer-

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ans have done n study of the bee lacks on that sid made up in pr methods. The sou keeper should go habits of the bee i any of the men t of any other man study the habits First-hand informat is worth more than hand facts, and he can profitably foll celebrated natural Nature, not Books. The study of the not easy. I am v persons think that an easier task than the bee, but there