

in that it is only the perfect females which pass over the winter, and in the spring each of these starts a new colony. Their nests are for the most part rather clumsy, untidy structures, the cells being irregular in shape and formed in a mass of pollen and honey. Owing to the length of their tongues, Bumble Bees are useful in pollenizing clover and were actually imported into New Zealand for this very purpose some years ago. Closely resembling the Bumble Bees are some species of *Apathus*, which live in the same nests with them, but are parasites or at any rate do not help in the work of the colony, and the females have no collecting baskets on their legs for carrying pollen. The large Carpenter Bee of Western Ontario, *Xylocopa virginica*, which somewhat resembles a Bumble Bee, makes tunnels half an inch in diameter and several inches long into the solid wood of sheds, houses and other buildings.

Very interesting insects are the Leaf-cutter Bees, (*Megachile*) which make their nests of several cells each one from half an inch to three-quarters of an inch in length, and neatly incased in round pieces cut from the leaves of roses, maples and other trees. Each of these cells contains a single egg and a mass of "bee-bread", pollen and honey, sufficient to feed the young larva to full growth. A small group of bees known as the Nomads are parasitic in the nests of other bees.

The large group of *Andrenidae* consists of short-tongued bees which dig out galleries beneath the surface of the ground. Some are solitary, as in the case of the true *Andrenas*, in which a single burrow may have four or five cells made by one female; or there may be large colonies, as in the genus *Halictus*, in which many females use the same common main shaft; but each has her own little gallery running off from this.

The Hymenoptera present so many features of extreme interest, and they are of such importance in their rôle of parasites as the main controllers of the undue increase of injurious insects, that the special study of any one of the groups would provide a life work of the greatest fascination to anyone who would devote time to it. I feel sure that all who have listened to Mr. Selwyn to-night must be convinced that a study of any of these insects would well repay them.