

of the insect bears down the pollen organs. They suddenly split as if a trigger had been pulled and the pollen is shot out.

Again the stamens of the barberry display a similar irritability. The slightest touch makes them start up from their ordinary position of resting on the petals. The head of the customer gets pelted with dust, and the dusty head probed into another flower, leaves some grains upon the stigma. Other examples of explosive mechanism are found in the flowers of the gorse, petty whin and the dwarf furze.

A flower has its enemies, ready to steal its honey without rendering any service; its unbidden guests against which it must guard itself. This it does in a variety of ways. The caterpillar and the snail are repelled by hairs and bristles; being thin-skinned and highly sensitive, they avoid the risks of a "punctured tyre." But there are more formidable guards than hairs and bristles, such as saw-shaped teeth and needle-like points, which prevent the creeping insects from reaching the flower. On the thistle the needles point both up and down. In some plants the honey is guarded by a pair of close fitting jaws; in others it is placed in a "safe" made of twisted hairs. Only those insects which fly and whose tongues can get between the hairs are admitted. If a creeping thing tries to rush the safe it is caught and held like a fish in a net. A further defence arises from the fact that before an insect can be of use to many flowers it must have a certain size, shape and weight. In several cases the honey is so completely covered that the insect has to push before it can reach it; or the passage may be so narrow that only a narrow tongue can enter. There can be no other reason for the form of some floral structures unless it be to shut out intruders. The pouch of the calceolaria, for instance, has such a tortuous entrance that it is practically blocked.

Only the heavy bee can reach the plunder, its weight on the lower lip being the key that unlocks the door.—T. P.'s Weekly.

ENCOURAGE THE FARMER BEE-KEEPER.

(By M. B. Holmes).

As we approach the close of the season's operations in the apiary we very often think of the large number of farmers and others in Ontario (in all the counties), who keep a few colonies of bees and who give them practically no attention, other than carrying them into winter quarters (the cellar), and carrying them out in the spring, and then living the increase in swarming time (if they happen to see them swarming), and yet they expect to derive some benefit from these colonies and are mystified, disgusted, or disgruntled because their bees do not give them a honey-crop similar to that produced under management in harmony with present-day methods.

It certainly seems strange that these men, who study to make every other department of their farming a revenue-producing department, should lose sight of the fact that, considering original outlay and cost of maintenance and operation, the very best stock on the farm is the very-much-neglected colonies of bees which they regard as a nuisance, or at least, of very trifling importance.

Now, Mr. Editor, no sane person would for a moment think of suggesting that all and singular of the above-mentioned farmers could, by any means, be converted into practical bee-keepers; for the very good and sufficient reason that in some instances they are not at all adapted for the business, while in other cases they are so circumstanced that they could not possibly devote the necessary time.

For these, and various other reasons, which might be given, it is not advisable to urge everybody to keep bees. This, I think will be readily admitted; and, yet,

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Athens, Oct.