

entrance and you will see the queen try to get uppermost and she can readily be seen taking her long strides over the others. One or two minutes is sufficient to find a black queen, or probably any other queen in a hive.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

FACTS ABOUT BEES.

MR. BENJAMIN KIDD in a late issue of *Longman's Magazine* has an interesting article under the above heading. And this is what he has to say in praise of the hive bee:

"Look at her as she travels inquiringly round; is she not a well-bred, intelligent looking little creature? Intelligent in every motion, clean-cut compact in form, with no gaudy patches of color in questionable taste, but refined, yet business like in appearance, there is a general look about her which stamps her at once as belonging to the highest type of the insect race."

As to her province in the economy of nature he says:

"If our little friend the bee were suddenly to exist who shall describe the desolation and confusion which would invade the harmony of nature? How many shy flower-virgins, on plain and hill side, would droop and pine for its coming! How many noble long-pedigreed families in wood and valley, finding life insupportable, would give up the struggle for existence and become extinct! How would nature herself change her brightest hues and dress herself in sombre colors to mourn our little friend?"

In regard to the formation of the cell Mr. Kidd does not think that the little architects have that "extraordinary intelligence" so generally attributed to them. He asserts: "the work of building the cell is always commenced by excavating a circular pit in the layer of wax from which the work proceeds. A moment's reflection will show that if all the cells were circular they would not fit closely together, and this would entail a great waste of space, as well as a large expenditure of wax in constructing a separate wall for each cell. Now as the work of construction proceeds, both these undesirable contingencies are avoided in making the cell hexagonal by simply straightening it out as it were, and eating away to a single thickness the original circular wall at the six points where it comes into contact with the walls of surrounding cells."

Speaking of the powers of communication possessed by bees he declares: The bees of one colony always recognise each other, even after pro-

longed absence and although it has not yet been clearly established, there seems to be good reason to believe that they do so principally by the sense of smell, and not by a password or signal as has been supposed."

I am sure we will all be sorry to learn from the same authority that: "Bees do not possess the feeling of affection or attachment for us." Nay worse that "even the respect for their queen savors of the coldest utilitarianism, and when through either accident or circumstances she ceases to be of use to the colony for the one purpose for which she is maintained, she is abandoned or superseded apparently without the slightest compunction or regret by her so-called subjects. Bees never seem to help each other in difficulty, as is done by the ants."

"Drones," he says, "are produced from unimpregnated eggs," and "the queen state is that to which all the worker grubs would develop in normal circumstances and that the bees deliberately and for social reasons prevent this natural development by a *regime* of low diet."

J. R. BLACK.

Garafraxa, Belwood, P. O. Aug. 3, 1885.

Friend B. has evidently chosen a number of points for his paper upon which a little discussion is now going on in the JOURNAL, and they are exceedingly well timed.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

HIVES AND HEARING.

IHAVE only time now to say in reply to Mr. Demaree (page 309) that he has forgotten that I said that I had worked in neighboring apiaries the L frame for several years after I had discarded it, only to the same disadvantage, which did not make my decision as premature as he may seem inclined to think; and also that I consider the L frame much better adapted to Kentucky than farther north.

Replying to S. T. Pettitt, (page 309) I request him to put a pint of bees in a two-quart fruit can and put on the top. Now let them hum ever so loud and not a bee will notice them, while some bees in a wire cloth cage will draw all the bees around. It is the scent that does it. By the word "hear" in *Gleanings* I meant to impart knowledge.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y.

We noticed the oversight you mention in regard to working the Langstroth frame for several years after you had adopted the Gallup; and we have also