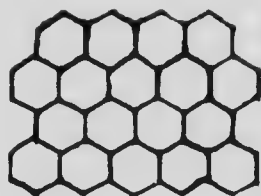
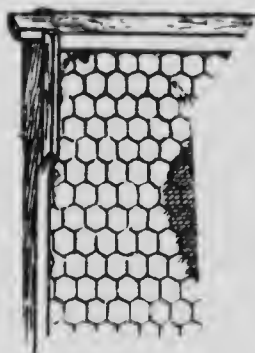


ORGANIZED LABOR

The workers are by far the most numerous individual of the colony, numbering in strong colonies as many as 50,000. They are the units of organized labor and to their lot fall all the duties of the hive except egg-laying and fertilization of the young queen. They build the comb, gather the honey, feed the young bees or larvae, and protect the community from robber bees or other enemies. Both the queen and the workers are provided with stings but the queen rarely makes use of hers.



Drone Comb



THE DRONE

The drones are found more abundantly at certain seasons than others. They are plentiful at the approach of the swarming season in May or June. Big, clumsy, and very idle, they perform no part of the daily labor in the hive, for their sole function is to mate with the young queens which, under ordinary conditions, appear in the colony about once a year during the swarming season.

BALANCE OF THE SEXES

It is interesting to note that of all animal life the bee is one of the few that has been able to solve the problem of the balance of the sexes, the queen being able to lay an egg that will hatch either a drone or worker, a male or female. It has been explained that the queen lays all the eggs and the drones are the male bees; what, then, are the workers?

PROBLEMS SOLVED

At some time in the history of bee-life, and it is not necessary to say, must have taught the bees to gather together for warmth during the winter season, and here we find a community that to all appearances has solved the problems that are now vexing our social philosopher. In the human world, the balance of the sexes, the relation to food supply, the balance of the sexes, the ownership of property, due qualification for parenthood and whether might is right all seem to have been happily settled by the bee commonwealth.

From the crowding together of the separate bee families for mutual protection against the elements to a complete and permanent fusion of life must have been only a step as nature works. But think of



Queen Cells in Different Stages