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Now, friend Macdonald, is this "astounding"? This is the evidence, at all events, that I adduce to prove the faith in me, backed by my own personal experience. I am not an authority, and where doctors disagree I shall not attempt to decide. Possibly, however, my not being in the supply business may have something to do with it.

JAS. J. HURLEY.

### PARTHENOGENESIS

"What did you mean by that big word you used just now?"

"Well, you have seen something of fruit fertilization, and have read, 'Male and female created He them.' This applies to the animal as well as to the vegetable kingdom. You have perhaps watched a bee enter a bloom and come out with her body hairs covered with pollen-grains, which are the fertilizing dust from the anthers or male organs of the flower. Away through space she flies with 'cupid wings' till entering another bloom she unconsciously dusts the pollen-grains on to the stigma or female organs of the flower she visits, and, traveling down into the ovary, these pollen-grains set the fruit, and in due time trees and plants are laden with luscious fruit, ripe red raspberries, melting strawberries, rosy-cheeked apples, and mellow pears. To attract these insect visitors plant life, out of its abundance, spreads a feast of nectar, loading them with pollen-grains, until, with measured beat of wing, they hie away home. You have sometimes when strolling along a hedgerow seen a hen on her nest, and on peeping in you have counted her pretty eggs. Could you tell me exactly how many male and how many female chicks there are in those eggs?"

"No; I don't think I could."

"But we can do this in the bee's nest. A bird's nest has only one compartment, but a bee has a compartment for each egg, which we call a cell. These cells

are larger for the male than the female. Can you give me the size?"

"Yes; drones are about eighteen and the workers nearly twenty-nine cells to the square inch."

"Well, now, you see the queen-bee must lay every egg in the right cell—male eggs in drone cells and female eggs in worker-cells, and the Almighty <sup>know</sup> what a wise provision He was making when He gave the queen the means to accomplish this end. It is this that we call parthenogenesis, which to the honey-bee is a real necessity. The word itself means reproduction without fertilization; which in plant life would mean that an apple tree could produce apples without pollen-grains being carried from anther to stigma. The drones are so produced in bee-life."—Joseph Gray, in "British Bee Journal."

### A NON-SWARMING IDEA

If you have a liking to try something new to prevent a colony of bees from swarming with one manipulation, then simply remove two combs (those containing the most honey) from the brood-chamber, and spread the remaining combs (use no dummies) evenly apart. In a ten-frame hive this would be eight combs in ten-frame space—about  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " from centre to centre. We have not tried the idea in an eight-frame hive, but we are confident it will work out all right, although the spacing would be about two inches from centre to centre. This extra spacing of six combs in an eight-frame hive we do not think would interfere with the practical working of the plan. Do the manipulating just before the clover honey-flow. If you have sufficient faith, try the plan and report.

A good deal is being said about shaking bees. Well, if you are going to shake 'em, shake 'em a good distance from the front of the hive, and give them a good long promenade home.

WM. BEUGLAS.

Plattsville, Ont.