The wasps are predatory, choosing as their victims spiders, flies, ants, caterpillars, etc., according to the genus. The great army of the bees has made an alliance with the flowers, cross-pollinating them in return for food of the richest and daintiest kind—pollen for the nurture of their young, aromatically flavoured nectars for their own delectation. There are many instances of certain species of bees associating only with certain species of plants. In the bees the body hairs are branched or plumose and gather up the pollen dust from the flowers they frequent, and they have beautifully adapted apparatus, becoming more intricate and perfect in the more specialized families, on their hind legs—and in one group (the leaf-cutter bees) on the underside of the abdomen—for collecting this pollen. In the wasps the body hairs are unbranched.

No species of bee runs riot, multiplying by millions under favourable conditions like certain insects in other orders, for the interesting reason that from nearly every genus in which are found species that by dint of special vigour or adaptability are inclined to overproduction, there has sprung a non-industrious genus, the species of which prey on the abundant industrious species, laying their eggs in their nests. The parasite, when it hatches, usually consumes both the host egg or larva and also its store of food, but in case of the semi-social bumble-bees, the parent parasite lives in the nest, producing young which the host workers tend and feed as they do their own brothers and sisters. As parasitic genera in all stages of separation from the host genus occur, we have here presented one of the most attractive and promising fields of study for the evolutionist that can be found. In some cases the parasite has drifted from its original host and has taken up with another. In general, the parasitic genera are less hairy than their hosts, and their tegumental colours are brighter. The bumble-bee parasites closely mimic their hosts and have so much structural similarity to them that they must have developed their parasitism comparatively recently.

In Canada by far the richest regions in species of wasps and bees are certain localities near and reaching to the southern borders. Three very rich localities can be distinguished. One of these is in Old Ontario, especially the region south of Toronto. Another,