

I cannot imagine that we want a bee which can rear drone and worker comb in the same cells. We can control drones in *Apis Mellifica* with comb foundation, surely no intelligent and well posted bee-keeper would go back to the system where he cannot control drones by using worker comb foundation. It is well to investigate but the more I hear of the bees the less favorably I am impressed with their economic value.

Since writing the above re black, the British Bee Journal has come to hand. In it there is an article on Insects and Flowers by R. Hamlyn-Harris, F. Z. S., F. E. S., etc. In this article the writer states:—"During a period of observation extending over many years I have repeatedly noticed that flowers of certain colors remain unvisited by insects; the same peculiarity occurring year after year. And also observing the movements of bees in a confined area, such as a conservatory (the one I am alluding to being 30 by 20 ft. and 12 ft. high, at Hambrook, in Gloucestershire.) With every kind of flower then in bloom it became more than evident that scarlet blossoms particularly were entirely ignored. In endeavoring to account for this my mind travelled first on the subject of unnatural heat, and I then came to the conclusion that, in consequence of this, it might perhaps be that very little nectar was secreted by those flowers accustomed to less heat in their natural state; but although this may be, and no doubt is, to some extent the case, I am more and more inclined to believe that the color of flowers acts directly or indirectly, either as a means of enticement or the contrary, and that, unless the bee is blind to certain colors, instinct teaches her to avoid those of little service in the execution of her duty. But the question naturally presents itself.—Can bees distinguish these flowers? If they can, why do they not visit them? No bee-keeper needs to be told how wonderfully God has planned the most delicate tissues and receptacles for nectar as a means of allurements to insects in order to bring about the necessary fertilization of plant life. I have known honey-bees, enticed by the fragrant aroma, display great excitement in the endeavour to get through the glass of our conservatory to reach some *Hoga Carnosa*, which was in full bloom and literally dripping with nectar; these blossoms were of lovely waxy whiteness. Again, I have watched for days as the blooms in a peach house have been most

frantically worked at by bees until it seemed as if every blossom must be fertilized. The bees in question flew about the outside of the house until the gardener opened the windows and (as is not always the case) the bees thoroughly knew their way in and out. We often find that where fertilization of certain plants takes place very readily and when this is so, of course, the assistance of bees and other insects is not necessary, as, for instance, when wind, buds, etc., are employed; little nectar is available, and no doubt this influences the instinct of bees not to waste their time over hunting useless fields. Without any doubt, then, we may confidently, so far as insects are concerned, regard blue and violet (and white if that may be termed a color) as their "pet" colors, because these possess a very marked influence as a means of enticement. Yellow is less frequently visited whilst green is treated with extreme indifference. Some years ago experiments of a very interesting character were made in order to verify, if possible, the ideas of zoologists and botanists on this very subject, and with what result? Let us see: Two groups of plants were placed side by side (about 2 ft. apart) in a garden bed. One group consisted of *pelargonium zonale*—the second group of *epinobium angustifolium* linne, the small leaved willow-herb.

The scarlet flowers of the *pelargonium* and the violet red ones of the willow-herb open at the same time. Certain species of *lepidoptera* (butterflies) and bees swarmed around, but curious to narrate, the butterflies stopped at the plants and gave about equal attention to the willow-herbs and the *pelargonium*, but the bees took absolutely no notice of the scarlet red blossoms but simply revelled in the blossoms of the violet-red willow-epilobe.

In the botanical gardens of Vienna three groups of herbaceous plants stood side by side, viz., the blue *hyssopis officinalis*, the pale *monarda fistulosa*, and the scarlet *monarda didyma*. All three blossom at the same time in the middle of July. Honey-bees came flying in numbers, but only to visit the blue hyssop and the violet monard; the scarlet *monarda didyma* being strictly avoided by them. It is naturally difficult to say whether this is merely a matter of dislike or instinct on the part of bees, or, as some incline to think, that they are really color-blind when it concerns red (scarlet) just as some human beings are