

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD

OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 4.

APRIL, 1891.

VOL. XI.

Articles : Original and Selected.

THE INTELLECT OF BEES.

By DR. M. L. HOLBROOK.

There are some things in Dr. Holbrook's paper which the thoughtful teacher may find of the greatest assistance, while examining the origin of the great world of thought. The hint about instinct may lead many of our elementary teachers, worried with what they deem at times the peculiarities of child-nature, to carry these peculiarities a step further back to their true origin, and, finding them with their roots in nature, adopt natural methods for their rectification. Nature has no fault for which she does not provide a cure.

My first acquaintance with bees, the Doctor says, began when I was a boy. The old log school-house, where I learned to read and spell, was on the edge of a wood. The cleared ground near the wood was in those days well grown over with thistles, and when they were in full blossom large numbers of bumble bees collected on them to gather honey, which the greater length of their proboscises than that of the honey bee enabled them to do. I took my first lesson in entomology, so far as I remember, in the study of these bees. One day a number of the school boys indulged in a common sport of seizing bees by both wings and holding them without being stung. Naturally I tried the experiment, but secured only one wing, which left the bee free to turn over and thrust its sting deep into my finger. It was my first experience of this kind, and the pain was very intense ; but not