

trate of the ancient borough of Hertford, in the chair. Mr. Jones earlier in the evening had said bee-keeping was the only honest way he knew of getting a living by theft (Oh! oh!). He (Mr. Sambels) hoped the Mayor had consulted his legal adviser before he consented to preside, because all the clever devices that had been exhibited that evening were only to induce the bees to store the honey they had stolen from some other persons' flowers, as well as their owners', so that their owners might come in, on the divine right of appropriation, vulgarly called robbery, and take what the bees had stolen, so that their profession, above all others, required a suitable chairman to make it respectable.

The proposal was carried by acclamation, and the meeting separated.

From the Youth's Companion.

HONEY ANTS.

THE honey ants are found from Southern Mexico as far north as Colorado, and are easily recognized by the tall mound-like structures or nests that they erect. They are like the owl, almost entirely nocturnal, carrying on their out-door work at night, although their domestic duties under ground are probably not neglected during the day. As soon as the darkness comes on, they sally out of their subterranean cities, and wander about, climbing bushes and trees in search of the food of their choice, which curiously enough, is honey. This will occur to you as an exceptional case among ants, as they generally, perhaps, as a rule, feed upon material that can be stored up; but here where the food is liquid you would assume that it could not be laid by for a rainy day, so to speak, the simple reason that the ants have no tanks, flasks, or bottles to hold the supply, nor the ingenuity to make them. Let us not say, however, that they have not sufficient intelligence to find a substitute, as they certainly have, and we find it in the curious dessert set before us in the city of Mexico. If we examine one of these ants, we shall find that the abdomen, or rear larger portion, is protected by ten plates or bands that are movable, and as they are connected or underlaid by a very delicate membrane almost like rubber, they can be stretched apart to a wonderful degree, allowing the abdomen to assume the appearance of a balloon four or five times its normal size. The ants also have a crop that is capable of a great distention, and governed by sets of powerful muscles; in other respects they resemble ordinary ants.

Now, by some arrangement, whether by agreement taking their turn, or by force, is not known, certain ants are selected by the others

as living bottles; in other words, they are obliged to receive the supply brought in by the rest, and retain it. When the foraging ants return, they have their crops filled with honey, and proceed directly to the bottles. Placing their mouths in contact with that of the unfortunate living receptacle by contraction of the muscles mentioned, the contents of the crop are forced out and into the bottle. Ant after ant unloads in this way, until the elasticity of the recipient is tested to the utmost and it can receive or hold no more.

The insect is then absolutely helpless. The crop and abdomen have expanded until it resembles an amber-tinted sac, as we have seen, the size of a currant, the head and limbs having almost disappeared, hanging upon the side like a stem, while the other organs within the little creature are so pressed out of shape that it is with the greatest difficulty they are traced. Loaded down in this way, and surfeited with sweets, the bottles, naturally powerless, and that this is appreciated by the others is evident from an examination of their nest, when it will be found that the honey-bearers are given a separate room and there tended with the greatest of care. They are, perhaps, placed there before being filled, or carried in later; but in any case, they are found together in a separate apartment, hanging from the roof, to which they cling with their limbs and appearing like ripe fruit suspended from invisible vines.

This, then, is the pantry, or storeroom, of the honey-ants and here is kept what corresponds to the winter store of other animals. When the other ants are hungry they proceed to this room and lick off the drops of honey that by muscular contraction are forced out by the patient and never hungry living bottle.

The nests of the honey-ants are eagerly sought after by the native Mexicans, and the storehouses pillaged of the bottles that are served as delicacies by them.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

ABBOTT L. SWINSON.--Notwithstanding the fact that we have had more snow and cold weather this fall and winter than has been since the fall and winter of 1876-77, the 'Tar-Heel' bees were carrying in pollen to-day, for the first this season; it is from Alder tags. The Alder is our first source of pollen each spring and never fails. It throws out its tags every month in the year, except December, which are literally covered with pollen.

In looking over my bees on the 26th, I find my imported Cyprian had not laid an egg, while many of my American Albino Italians had