

## THE HONEY BEE AND OTHER BEES.

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At the conclusion of Mr. Selwyn's lecture upon the life and work of the Honey Bee, Dr. Fletcher spoke at some length on the points brought out by the lecturer, emphasizing what had been said with reference to the remarkable social and communistic habits of these insects, and drawing special attention to the many homologous characters common to them and human beings. As with some men, the drones made a good deal of noise, fussed a good deal, ate a good deal, and knew how to stay where it was comfortable. The hard working females on the other hand spent their whole lives in keeping the house in order, in feeding the young and the almost worthless drones, and in laying up a store of food to sustain the colony through the winter.

They illustrated every virtue we are taught to admire in mankind, industry, providence, love of home, and loyalty; even to the extent not only of feeding their queen from the time she hatched from the egg and throughout her whole life, but they went so far as to keep her in order and make her do what was good for her, sometimes against her own will.

The speaker said:—

Every incident in the life of a colony of bees has been so fully treated of by Mr. Selwyn that it is unnecessary to add anything further on that subject. The Honey Bee is not a native of North America, but was certainly introduced very early in the settlement of the country. The colonies of wild Honey Bees which are sometimes seen in the woods, have merely originated from swarms which left apiaries in the vicinity and then established themselves in some convenient hollow tree. There are, however, many kinds of wild bees in Canada which are well worthy of study by naturalists; but none of which produce honey of commercial value. Some of the Bumble Bees do, it is true, store up a certain amount of honey in their underground nests, as is well known to all school-boys, and this is of a very rich aromatic flavor; but unfortunately this honey is small in quantity, and moreover has the unpleasant effect of producing intense headache in the case of many people who eat it.