

larkspurs, columbines, honey-suckles, salvias, &c., but in the inconspicuous flowers of the hazel, walnut, oak, grasses and sedges, it is done by the wind.

I should wish to know why the sun-flower should have developed the large, conspicuous ray-flower surrounding the head; the vermilion-red tracts surrounding the flowers of poinsettia; the bright-red corollas of bee-balm, or the rose-purple corolla of the dragon-head, and numerous other cases which might be mentioned? Have the colors and forms of flowers been developed merely to gratify and please our senses?

The simple statement that insects are attracted "by scent and not color" has little weight. Experimentally it has been shown by Sir John Lubbock, in *Ants Bees and Wasps*, ch. x., p. 274; and by Hermann Muller, in *Versuche ueber die Farbenliebhabelei der Honig-biene*, Kosmos, No. 10, vol. xii., p. 273, that bees possess an acute color sense, readily distinguishing such colors as blue, green, orange, red, white and yellow. It does not follow from this that insects reason because colors are discerned, any more than a bee uses reason to construct its cells.

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For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

WHO SHOULD KEEP BEES.

WELL who should keep bees if they don't want to, or who should not keep bees if they do, its not my business to say, but we have a right to guess who will succeed in the business. The reason a man fails in any location is because only a part of his business is well understood, while he guesses at the rest. The part he guesses at is not likely to come out right. The man that don't like bees well enough to give them thorough attention, and commence at the bottom of the ladder and learn it to the top, not omitting one factor connected with their welfare, will at some point break down, or give up, or whine out of the business and give the bees a bad name. I know a man who bought a few colonies of bees, and because they died from want of attention he said he killed all the bees he saw on the flowers after that! If that man had known how little he was adapted to the business perhaps he would not have bought bees. A man has got to be a "sticker" in any business to succeed, and it generally takes about a dozen years to be master of any trade, and if you work at it ten years you have lost just that ten years, for it will be of no value to you in another trade. So one half of

your success will be gained already if you have been wise enough to choose a trade which you know you like above all others, and the other half will be gained by pluck, and plod, and sticking. It is wrong for a man to rush into the bee business for the sake of making money, not caring a fig for the bees themselves, just as though it was the trade that made the money. Such men won't succeed. It is the love for your business that brings the proper thought and care which will, if pursued long enough, bring success. Don't think of being a specialist until you learn how; calling yourself one is one thing and being one is another. If you have reached that point where your knowledge and experience have made your business a success, then you are a specialist, but for the sake of the loved ones don't throw all you have into any business which you know nothing about, especially the bee business, and call yourself a specialist. If a man has made a success of bee-keeping bad seasons have but little effect on him. He generally tides over without one thought of giving up. Of course a man has got to have something to do for a living while he is learning how to keep bees, but after he has made a success of bees he generally gives them his whole care if he likes them. Some men can have a number of irons in the fire at once without burning any of them. They seem to care but little for any one thing. If they have a number of trades it is safe to say they will bring none of them to perfection, but to get scared because there comes one or two poor seasons, and say bee-keepers ought to divide their attention with something else just when we ought to keep the coolest and have our wits about us, is very foolish. If I thought I could use any more bees to advantage I should certainly buy them now. Those who shout loudest in prosperity are generally the ones to give up quickest in adversity.

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Baker's "Eight Years in Ceylon."

BEES IN CEYLON.

THERE are five varieties of bees in Ceylon; these are all honey-makers except the carpenter bee. This species is entirely unlike a bee in all its habits. It is a bright tinsel green color, and the size of a large walnut, but shaped like the humble-bees of England. The mouth is armed with a very powerful pair of mandibles, and with a sting even larger and more venomous than that of the hornet. These carpenter bees are exceedingly destructive, as they bore holes in beams and posts, in which they lay their eggs, and the