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THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE HONEY BEE (*APIS MELLIFICA*).*

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Before speaking of the bees themselves it may be well to say a few words in regard to the wax combs on and in which these interesting insects live and move and have their being. When in a wild state the bees are necessarily their own architects and build their combs to suit their own tastes and also to suit the environment of their self-chosen abode—probably in some hollow tree. This results in combs of every size, shape and thickness, and also in an excessive amount of drone comb, which the bees appear to favor as a receptacle for their honey, but which the practical bee-keeper considers most undesirable. The two combs which you now see were taken from an ordinary eight-frame Langstroth hive, which is in general use both in Canada and the United States at the present time. One of these combs consists entirely of "worker" comb, while the other is mainly "drone" comb and is the result of the bee-keeper having used a narrow strip of comb foundation in the frame instead of a full sheet.

Since the invention and introduction of artificial comb foundation, which is all stamped with the base of worker cells, the practical bee-keepers of to-day do not consider it either advisable or economical to allow their bees to build their own combs. The reason for this is self-evident when it is known that in order to produce a pound of wax (the amount of foundation required for eight frames) it is necessary for the bees to consume upwards of 20 pounds of honey, which at the ordinary market price would be worth \$2.00, whereas a pound of wax foundation costs approximately fifty cents. The combs which

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