

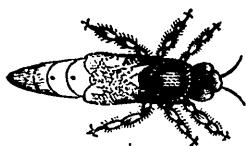
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QUEEN.



DRONE.



WORKER.

## FIRST LESSONS IN BEE-KEEPING.

(Continued.)

Having purchased a hive of bees, as we instructed in our last number, we trust you have also got a good movable-frame hive, as without this you will be unable to see the inside of your hive. This contains comb of two kinds, namely, drone and worker; and comb contains honey, pollen, or bee-bread, and brood eggs. The honey is generally stored around the edges of the comb, with a cell here and there filled with pollen; and the large, black, or rather dark brown spot in the centre is the brood chamber, in which the bees are hatched. But what are those long things like an acorn, hanging from the side of the comb? This is the cell from which the "queen" or mother bee was hatched.

But I had forgotten that I had told you nothing about the different kinds of bees the hive contains. There are three, drones, queen, and workers; but at this season there are only two kinds, queen and workers. We give you above cuts of the different inhabitants of the hive. The drone, or male bee, is not very often seen in the hive in Canada until about the end of May or early part of June. They do no work at honey-gathering, but seem to have the best of life while it lasts, feeding on the hard-earned stores of the hive, and having a good time generally. You can tell them very easily, as they are nearly three times the size of the workers, and have a very peculiar hum when flying. You can catch them with your fingers by the score on a warm day at the entrance of the hive; having no

sting like the workers there is no danger. The less of these we can raise the better, and I would advise all young bee-keepers to keep the drone come well cut out. The cells are easily known, being much larger, and can be cut out with a sharp knife at any time. I would not leave more than about two inches square of drone comb in the hive. I have found that this is plenty, but many of our readers may not agree with me on this point,—if not, let us hear from them. Well, to return to our subject: you ask, What good is the drone to the colony? This we answer very shortly: only to fertilize the queen. And we are told by many prominent bee-keepers that having mated with a queen the drone dies at once. As soon as the store of honey seems to be getting scarce, about the end of August of 1st or September, you may see the workers dragging them out by scores, and killing the poor fellows without mercy. It is an amusing sight to see the little worker turning a drone three times her size over and over, till she has got him clear of the hive.

Having thus given you a description of the drone, we will pass on to the most important of all, the "queen." The queen, or mother bee, as she is sometimes called, is not so easily seen as the drone, generally being among the workers, and hard at work laying. I have found it very difficult at times to find the queen in a black hive, as she is so shy that you can rarely ever get a good chance to examine her. She is about an inch long, a red-