

A PLEA FOR THE BEE STING

BY "SCOTTIE"

A stingless bee! Stingless, good worker, disease resisting, non-swarming, live-for-ever, etc., etc. These last are such minor qualifications that Mr. Burrows deferred mentioning them. We have surely reached the acme of perfection, now, when we have all the desirable qualities centred in one little bee. (If we could only develop as perfect a man!)

Who sent in the order for a stingless bee? None of our present beekeepers—and the would-be beekeeper whose only objection is that awful sting had better stick to his old trade.

Shame, shame on the man who would strive to deprive a bee of its only mode of defence and seek to turn it into a helpless defenceless little worker to be abused and buffeted about at the will of man! What encouragement or inducement would it have for gathering that golden nectar had it no means wherewith to defend its garnered treasure? Soon, as well have a cage of flies. Bees are reasonable. Meet them half way as you would a man and see how seldom they refuse the treaty of peace.

Moreover, it is one of our fiery Cyprian drones which is claimed to have been wheedled into partnership in this new species of bee. I imagine a descendant of Cyprian renouncing his birthright—the absolute, unreserved right to sting whenever, wherever and whoever possible!

Mr. Burrows would spend his time more profitably, with more credit to himself and greater benefit to beedom if he produced us an "honest" rather than a stingless bee.

Let the bee have its sting, it is the very essence of beekeeping, and enjoy the stinging as the most desirable "sting" man ever gets.

THE BEHAVIOR OF THE BEE

BY E. F. PHILIPPS, PH. D.

I am a little fearful that the subject which has been announced for me to-night may have frightened those who are not here, but I would like in the first place to explain the use of the word "behavior" as it has been used in connection with what I shall have to say to-night. It is a word which is not commonly used in bee literature, and I am using it because I am not entirely satisfied with the word which we ordinarily use. We commonly speak of the habits of the honey bee. By that term we mean the sum total of its activities under normal and abnormal conditions. However, as I shall try to point out, there are certain reasons why we should not use the word "habit." The word habit, as you know, is used to designate those activities which we go through and which we execute as a result of past experience. That is, we have habits. The bee does more than merely have habits, although there are certain things which it does habitually even more than we do; and since the word has a double meaning, it is better to use the word behavior, which covers all the activities of the bee under normal and abnormal conditions.

To address a company of bee-keepers and tell them bee stories may seem almost out of place. I must confess I did not choose the subject which is given to me to-night, and while I have on several occasions told bee stories or used the subject which is announced for me this evening, I have done it in a somewhat different way than I shall try to-night. If I were addressing an audience of people who did not know anything about bees, and who could not bring me to task for any slips I might make, I might have a very different tale to tell than I would dare give before a company of bee men. However, there are some things about bee behavior or bee activity

that it seems bear more in apology for this it is per attention to th ipulation and based on the that bees do u conditions. If bees it is true, so, that we fin the fundament; do our work, a what the state must be to con talk with beeke about these swarm control a what not, and things. The be constant and co his bees, but I e that if we had the behavior of out manipulation beginner a found of the various things are at the form this opinion due to his past e has not always i own mind the s With that brief of the subject th I want to call to anything about That is the poin should have in th topic of this kind. that the poet exe monly call poetic i to animals and pl times inanimate of passions, and am perhaps than mar That may be all i have no criticism because it has a pla that we are not in a from it. However,