



Bees' Business

► BEES' business is usually measured only in terms of honey production. If that were all bees did for man it would be enough to justify their keep, for the annual production of honey in this country is estimated at 200 million pounds—which is equal to the displacement of a first-class cruiser. At present honey prices, that's really "heavy sugar". And there is also a tidy sideline of beeswax, still an important item in many industries and arts.

But bees work for us in a hundred other ways: our tables would be terribly impoverished if they were to disappear for even one season. The pollinating activity of bees is required for practically all our fruit trees and berry bushes, our melons, squashes, pumpkins and cucumbers, our tomatoes, eggplant and peppers, for the cotton we wear and the tobacco we smoke.

True, some of the plodding staples of our diet need no help from the bees. Potatoes, both white and sweet, are propagated without recourse to seed. The grains and the hay and pasture grasses are wind-pollinated. Buckwheat, however, is commonly rated as a cereal even though it is not a grain, and it requires the services of honey bees to make a crop.



WYOMING

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The region abounds in geological and historical interest—dinosaur bones, marine fossils and Indian implements are found nearby.

Write for folder—Paton Ranch, Shell, Wyoming.

It would really seem more appropriate to anoint our buckwheat cakes with strained honey than with the traditional maple syrup.

Alfalfa, sweet clover and several other clover species, all of which figure importantly in the production of meat and dairy products, need the visits of bees to insure seed for the next sowings. Seedsmen would be hard put to produce seeds for flower and vegetable gardens in a beeless country.

Bees are important to a number of our forest and ornamental trees, though it is true that a majority of our trees are wind-pollinated. Among the bee-visited trees are the locusts, the magnolias, tulip-tree, flowering dogwood, sassafras and sourwood. Of all varieties of honey, the

honey of the sourwood tree of the Southeast is, in the opinion of many, the most fragrant.

It is no fancy that honey takes on something of the characteristic fragrance of the flowers from which it is produced. When there is a great abundance of flowers of one particular kind in bloom, as in a clover field or an apple orchard, the bees in the vicinity will work on those flowers almost exclusively. If a bee gets started on one kind of flower at the beginning of the day, she will work only on that kind all day long. The result is that the combs are loaded with honey concentrated mainly from the flowers predominant at a given time in the neighborhood.

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Books of the Week

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ABBOTT LAWRENCE LOWELL, 1856-1943—Henry Aaron Yeomans—*Harvard University Press*, 564 p., illus., \$6.00. The biography of Lowell is also, naturally, a history of Harvard University.

AMERICAN JUNIOR COLLEGES—Jesse P. Bogue, Ed.—*American Council on Education*, 2d ed., 537 p., \$6.50. A very useful and comprehensive directory.

APPLIED PHYSICS: ELECTRONICS, OPTICS, METALLURGY—*Little, Brown*, 456 p., illus., \$6.00. A history of four divisions of the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

ATOMIC ENERGY, ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: A Discussion by a Chatham House Study Group—*Royal Institute of International Affairs*, 128 p., paper, \$1.25. By a group of men prominent in British political and scientific life.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON YEAR BOOK No. 46, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1947—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 211 p., illus., paper \$1.00, cloth \$1.50. Reports of investigations in many fields.

DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE RATTLE OF THE RATTLESNAKES—Arnold A. Zimmermann and Clifford H. Pope—*Chicago Natural History Museum*, 58 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. The gross studies were supplemented by X-rays of the live snakes.

THE DIGESTIVE TRACT IN ROENTGENOLOGY—Jacob Buckstein—*Lippincott*, 889 p., illus., \$16.00. This profusely illustrated volume will serve not only the roentgenologist but also the surgeon and physician as an aid to diagnosis.

FARMERS OF FORTY CENTURIES: Or Permanent Agriculture in China, Korea and Japan—F. H. King—*Organic Gardening Press (Rodale)*, 379 p., illus., \$5.00. First American edition of a book originally published in England and already familiar to many American readers.

FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION—Edith L. Potter—*McGraw-Hill*, 231 p., illus., \$3.50. Although intended especially for nurses, this book is written in non-technical language so that it can be read by all those with an interest in how we all began.

HOLLYWOOD ON TRIAL: The story of the 10 Who Were Indicted—Gordon Kahn—*Boni & Gaer*, 229 p., paper, \$1.00, cloth \$2.75. Has a foreword by Thomas Mann. Because the Un-American Activities Committee is also under indictment by many scientists for the Condon affair, this is a timely book for scientists.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS OF PHYSICS—L. Hopf—*Dover*, 154 p., \$1.95. A book for home study intended for physicist and engineer.

MEDICINE IN THE POSTWAR WORLD: The March of Medicine, 1947—*Columbia University Press*, 109 p., \$2.00. A group of lectures including discussion of the effect of atomic research on medicine and the new antibiotics.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION: A Review for 1947—Raymond B. Fosdick—*Rockefeller Foundation*, 64 p., illus., paper, free from the publisher, 49 West 49th St., New York City. An account of the world-wide activities of this institution.

ROSES FOR EVERY GARDEN—R. C. Allen—*Barrows*, 218 p., illus., \$3.50. A book for gardeners on America's favorite flower.

THE SOLAR SPECTRUM, Lambda 6600 to 13495—Harold D. Babcock and Charlotte E. Moore—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 95 p., paper, \$1.40, cloth \$2.00. Results accumulated since 1925 are tabulated for about 7400 spectral lines.

THEORY OF HARMONY: Harmonielehre—Arnold Schoenberg—*Philosophical Library*, 336 p., illus., \$7.50. A translation by Robert D. W. Adams of a work by a Viennese musician.

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